U.—1.
200-6-06.

The Local Government Act, 1888, Sec. 24 (2) c, and the Orders of the Local Government Board.

REPORTS

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH

FOR THE

Urban and Rural Sanitary Districts

WITHIN THE COUNTY OF DORSET

For the Year ended

31st DECEMBER, 1905.

HENRY LING, COUNTY & BOROUGH PRINTER, DORCHESTER.

EXTRACTS FROM

General Order of Local Government Board, 1891,

AS TO

ANNUAL REPORTS OF MEDICAL OFFICERS OF HEALTH.

PART 1.

Art. 18, par. (14.) He shall also make an annual report to the Sanitary Authority, up to the end of December in each year, comprising a summary of the action taken, or which he has advised the Sanitary Authority to take during the year for preventing the spread of disease, and an account of the Sanitary state of his District generally at the end of the year. The report shall also contain an account of the inquiries which he has made as to conditions injurious to health existing in the District, and of the proceedings in which he has taken part or advised under any Statute so far as such proceedings relate to those conditions; and also an account of the supervision exercised by him or on his advice, for sanitary purposes over places and houses that the Sanitary Authority have power to regulate, with the nature and results of any proceedings which may have been so required and taken in respect of the same during the year. The report shall also record the action taken by him or on his advice during the year in regard to offensive trades, to dairies, cow-sheds, and milk-shops, and to factories and work-shops. The report shall also contain tabular statements (on Forms to be supplied by Us, or to the like effect), of the sickness and mortality within the district, classified according to diseases, ages and localities.

Provided that, if the Medical Officer of Health shall cease to hold office before the 31st day of December in any year, he shall make the like report for so much of the year as shall have expired when he ceases to hold office.

Art. 18, par. (16.) At the same time that he gives information to Us of an outbreak of infectious disease or transmits to us a copy of his annual report or of any special report, he shall give the like information or transmit a copy of such report to the County Council of the County within which his district may be situated.

PART 2.

In regard to every Medical Officer of Health, no part of whose salary is intended to be payable to an Urban Sanitary Authority by a County Council or by the Town Council of a Borough in pursuance of the Local Government Act, 1888, We do hereby Order :—

Art. 20. The following shall be the duties of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the District for which he is appointed :—

(1) He shall within seven days after his appointment report the same in writing to Us.

(2) He shall perform all the duties prescribed by Article 18 of this Order for a Medical Officer of Health in respect of whose salary a payment is intended to be made by a County Council as aforesaid.

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Blandford—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

Area of the District.—363 acres.

Population.—(Census 1901) is 3649 and estimated to the middle of 1905—3654.

Births—There were 65 Births. The *Birth Rate* is 17·8.

Deaths.—There were 54 Deaths. The *Death Rate* is 14·7.

Infantile Mortality.—30·7.

Zymotic Mortality.—0·5.

Average Age at Death.—49·2.

Nine persons died in the Workhouse, two died in the Cottage Hospital, and a stranger died in the town as the result of an accident. These twelve all being "Non-Residents," should be deducted from the total number of deaths for the corrected Death Rate, which thus will be 11·7.

These statistics are generally satisfactory.

The ages at which deaths occurred are:—

Under 1 year of age	2
Aged 1 year and under 5	4
,, 5 ,, 15	2
,, 15 ,, 25	1
,, 25 ,, 65	23
,, 65 and upwards	22
Total	54

The Mortality from every cause has been as follows:—

Disease.	No. of Deaths.
Measles	2
Phthisis	6
Other Tubercular Disease	1
Cancer	8
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	2
Premature Birth	1
Heart Diseases	5
Accidents	3
Suicide	1
All other causes	21
Total	54

Five children born in the year were illegitimate.

Measles was very prevalent in the latter part of the year, and two deaths resulted therefrom. But for these the Zymotic Mortality would again have been nil.

I received six notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year —

Four Enteric Fever.
One Diphtheria.
One Erysipelas.

All the cases of Enteric Fever as well as the one of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital. The Enteric Fever occurred in different localities in the town, and the cases were in no way connected with each other. One I had no doubt was contracted elsewhere, as the child, the subject of it, had been from home, returning just before symptoms of the malady developed. Having reason to suspect the character of the water used in the dwellings occupied by two of the cases, as it was derived from wells on the premises, I ordered a sample from each to be examined. This was done by Dr. Thresh, at the London Hospital, both samples being condemned by him, although he did not discover the Typhoid Bacillus. This bears out the advisability of adopting the recommendation I have given before, "That now the

Blandford Water Works supply the town with such excellent water, no inhabitant should be compelled to use water drawn from wells in the Borough, which are obviously, and have been repeatedly proved to be, so liable to contamination." Notwithstanding, I regret to say, that many polluted wells are still in use. I could discover no cause to account for the disease with regard to the other two cases of Enteric Fever. The case of Diphtheria was no doubt caused by insanitary defects we found in and near the house, and which were promptly remedied. I have on many occasions inspected the Town Sewer, which is discharged into the river, at the west-end of the town. I feel certain that urine as well as fœcal matter are present in this drain. I have always found it in a filthy condition, giving off a disgusting odour, more especially in hot weather. Moreover, I am aware that illness ascribed to this has been caused amongst some of the inhabitants thereabouts. This must of necessity be the case until a system of drainage is adopted for the town. I have on many occasions condemned the privy vaults which still exist in the town. They are undoubtedly a nuisance, injurious to health, and a grave cause of complaint to those living in their proximity. In the absence of water closets, the pail and dry earth system is the better plan for the disposal of feculent matter. The Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses, as well as the Workshops, are all in a sanitary condition, and of late have given no cause for complaint. Mr. Barnes, the Inspector of Nuisances, systematically visits and inspects all of them. The one common Lodging House is carried on, and is, in as decent a state as can be expected.

Branksome (now Poole Borough)—**Dr. W. Alexander.**

The following is the Report on the sanitary condition of the Branksome Urban District for the year 1905.

On the 9th November this district was amalgamated with Poole, and by order of the Local Government Board my official duties ended on that date; but, by arrangement with Dr. Carrington, Medical Officer of Health for Poole, the report is for the whole year, *i.e.*, up to December 31st.

The area of the District is 2,590 acres.

The population (1901 census) 8,095. The population estimated for 1905, 9,500.

Births. The births numbered 275—132 males and 143 females

The birth rate per 1,000 therefore was in	1905	28·94
,, ,, ,,	1904	33·10
,, ,, ,,	1903	29·65
,, ,, ,,	1902	36·54
,, ,, ,,	1901	30·89
,, ,, ,,	1900	31·07
,, ,, ,,	1899	38·60
,, ,, ,,	1898	31·25
,, ,, ,,	1897	34·03

This gives an average per 1,000, for nine years, of 32·70.

Deaths. The deaths numbered 101—51 males and 50 females.

The death rate per 1,000 therefore was in	1905	10·63
,, ,, ,,	1904	13·70
,, ,, ,,	1903	10·15
,, ,, ,,	1902	16·60
,, ,, ,,	1901	14·65
,, ,, ,,	1900	12·43
,, ,, ,,	1899	20·56
,, ,, ,,	1898	13·80
,, ,, ,,	1897	11·50

This gives an average per 1,000, for nine years, of 13·78.

The causes of death may be summarised as follows :—

Tuberculosis (Phthisis, 9 ; Tubucular Meningitis, 5)	14
Heart Disease	11
Pneumonia and Broncho-Pneumonia	9
Bronchitis (Acute and Chronic)	8
Permature Birth	7
Whooping Cough (with complications)	6
Malignant Disease	5
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	4
Accidents	2
Diphtheria	1
Diarrhœa	1
Pleurisy	1
Diseases and Accidents of Parturition	1
All other causes (including Senility, 21)	31
	101

The births being 275 and deaths 101, there is a natural increase of population of 174, exactly the same number as last year. But, owing to the rapid development of the district and the number of new houses, I have estimated the increase of population at 500, a figure which I consider quite within the mark.

The average age at death was 36 years ; last year, 32. While 30 children died at the age of one year and under, 29 deaths occurred at ages between 65 and 84 ; nine of them being over 80 years. I may here draw your attention to the fact that the number of deaths from tubercular disease is one half that of last year.

The infantile mortality per 1,000 births, therefore was :—

In 1905 the rate was	109·09 per 1000
,, 1904 ,,	117·45 ,,
,, 1903 ,,	63·32 ,,
,, 1902 ,,	114·48 ,,
,, 1901 ,,	127·48 ,,
,, 1900 ,,	107·30 ,,
,, 1899 ,,	146·70 ,,
,, 1898 ,,	160 ,,
,, 1897 ,,	87·50 ,,

This gives an average per 1,000 births, for nine years, of 114·81.

Zymotic Mortality.—There was one death from diphtheria, which occurred at the child's own home a few hours after being first seen by the doctor, and before antitoxin could be used.

The zymotic death rate per 1,000, therefore was :—

In 1905 the rate was	·10 per 1,000
,, 1904 ,,	·11 ,,
,, 1903 ,,	1·03 ,,
,, 1902 ,,	·90 ,,
,, 1901 ,,	·47 ,,
,, 1900 ,,	·41 ,,
,, 1899 ,,	·91 ,,
,, 1898 ,,	1·25 ,,

The average zymotic death rate per 1,000, for eight years, is ·725.

Prevalence of Infectious Disease.—During the year 18 cases were notified, viz. :—Scarlet fever, nine ; diphtheria, four ; erysipelas, four ; variola (smallpox), one. Five of the nine cases notified as scarlet fever, and admitted to the hospital as such, eventually proved to be not scarlet fever, and were discharged after sufficient detention and isolation to prevent the spread of infection. Besides these five cases there were in Branksome and surrounding districts a good many of the same kind, all occurring about the same time, viz., the month of November. They were exceedingly like scarlet fever on the first and second day—a slight sore throat with a few patches on the tonsils, slight temperature, and a rash which lasted only 24 to 36 hours. The child was usually well on the third or fourth day, and though closely watched for three or four weeks, no desquamation took place, nor was there ever any albumen in the urine. The illness was probably one of Follicular Tonsillitis of an influenzal origin Hence the number of infectious cases is reduced to 13 for the year. This is the lowest recorded in Branksome, notwithstanding the large increase of population, as shewn by the following table, viz. :—

The notification of infectious disease was—

In 1905 it was	13
,, 1904 ,,	22
,, 1903 ,,	18
,, 1902 ,,	21
,, 1901 ,,	41
,, 1900 ,,	16
,, 1899 ,,	96
,, 1898 ,,	14

The average for the eight years (1898-1905) is 30·125.

Besides the other infectious cases which are notifiable, there was an epidemic of whooping cough, and I closed the Branksome Heath Infant School for a fortnight, dating from January 27th.

Of the 13 cases of infectious disease eight were treated in hospital—five in the Alderney Isolation Hospital (Branksome), and three in the Bournemouth Isolation Hospital at Boscombe. All the other cases were treated in their own homes. The reason for the three cases being sent to Boscombe—there were four cases altogether sent to Boscombe, as one was removed from the Alderney Hospital, and the three as they occurred—was owing to the outbreak of smallpox. The first case of smallpox occurred in this district on April 3rd in a young woman who had a few days previously left her situation as a domestic servant in Bournemouth. On April 4th she was removed to hospital and isolated under care of a special nurse. On April 13th I received from Dr. Nunn, Medical Officer of Health for Bournemouth, a communication by telephone that another case of smallpox had occurred, and could be traced to the same source. On our suggestion the Councils of Bournemouth and Branksome agreed to make the Alderney Hospital, as one case was already there, the smallpox hospital for the time, Bournemouth Isolation Hospital to receive all our other infectious cases.

In all, there were four cases of smallpox at Alderney Hospital : one from Branksome, two from Bournemouth, and one from Poole Rural. They all made good recoveries. In our district all contacts were immediately vaccinated or re-vaccinated, and every precaution taken to prevent the spread of infection. Three nurses who had been in contact with the smallpox cases were also re-vaccinated, and underwent quarantine at the hospital. The origin of the outbreak was from a young man who had returned home to Bournemouth from South Africa by an East Coast steamer to London, calling at Marseilles, but where he actually contracted the disease is not known. The young woman was domestic servant at his home. From the beginning to the end of the outbreak covered a period of three and a half months, the hospital being re-opened on July 17th.

I have to tender my best thanks to Dr. Nunn for so kindly attending to these cases, and otherwise assisting me with the outbreak.

The Isolation Hospital is well situated on a high, dry gravel soil. The wards are bright, airy and scrupulously clean, and from time to time have been thoroughly disinfected and lime-washed. The disinfectants used were formalin, carbolic acid and crude sanitas. All the houses where the infectious cases occurred, including tuberculosis, were disinfected with formalin ; so also were the patients' clothes. There is no steam disinfector. The drains, where defective, were repaired, and insanitary conditions remedied. No patients were admitted to hospital for three weeks after the last smallpox patient had left. All clothing worn by the smallpox patients was burnt, and compensation allowed to the owners. During the whole year 26 cases in all were treated at the hospital ; the other cases, besides the Branksome ones, coming from Poole, Poole Rural, Lytchett and Bournemouth. There were no deaths in the hospital this year.

The Matron, Mrs. Nippard, continues to carry out her duties at the hospital in a most efficient manner. During the smallpox outbreak she was assisted by Nurse Carr, and to both of them is due great praise for the satisfactory results of the cases. They, as well as the ward maid, had a rather trying experience at that time, as for a period of three and a half months they were not allowed outside the hospital gates. Besides, the Matron's children had to be sent away.

Midwives' Act.—This Act came into force during the year, but although the Council's attention was drawn to it, no steps were taken.

Water Supply.—Practically the whole of Branksome is supplied with water from the Bournemouth and Poole Companies' mains. There are still a few wells in Newtown. The water supplied by the Bournemouth Water Company is of good quality though rather hard ; but this is now in process of being remedied, and the water will thereby be improved.

During the past year there have been many complaints against the Poole Water Company as to the condition and quality of the water supplied by that Company. It was very frequently of a rusty-brown colour, and, in my opinion, unfit for drinking or cooking purposes without further filtration Again, the Company very frequently during the summer months cut off the water supply for many hours at a stretch without giving any notice of their intention to do so. The hospital was often without a drop of water, but it has now been provided with a specially fitted reserve water tank to prevent such a contingency happening in the future. The Clerk, at the request of the Council, frequently wrote to the Clerk of the Water Company complaining of the quality and irregularity of the supply. But remonstrance was useless.

Sewerage, Drainage and Excrement Disposal.—The West Ward has hitherto been unsewered ; pails and cesspools are in use. The cesspools are emptied at night. Last year (1905) the number emptied was 1,935, an increase of 500 ; 69 pails were emptied by the Council's employees, the others by the tenants. The excrement is deposited on farm land and covered. Early in the year the work of laying a new main sewer for this Ward was begun, and is now nearly finished. The contract was a big one, owing to the cutting of a tunnel, which at one point reached a depth of 80 feet, from the gas works to the sea, below Poole Road and through Branksome Park. The work of connecting up the house drains with the sewer is not yet begun, but the branch sewers along the principal streets are being connected. This work, when finished, will be of immense benefit to the health and sanitary condition of the district. The East Ward is already sewered, the main sewers being carried into the Bournemouth and Poole systems. Many of the old drains have shown evidence of defect, and much useful work has been done by our department in taking out and repairing the old defective drains. The number done during the year was 144.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—All these were visited by the Medical Officer of Health or Sanitary Inspector, in some cases more than once, during the year. The dairies were fairly clean. Most of the cowsheds have been lime-washed from time to time.

Pigstys.—Many pigs are kept in the outlying parts of the district, and will now, apparently, continue to be kept without let or hindrance. The majority of the owners are willing, as a rule, to follow the advice of the Sanitary Inspector and keep the stys clean, so as not to be a nuisance to the residents, and to abate any nuisance that may from time to time arise during long spells of wet weather. But all pig-keepers do not so act. At the end of 1904 a resident signed the Inspector's book complaining of a nuisance arising from pigstys in Church Road. By the request of the Council we (that is, the Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector) made frequent visits to the stys, and on four occasions reported to the Council. On each of these occasions we found a condition of things amounting to a nuisance, and reported accordingly. But for nearly six months the majority of the Council refused to do anything, trusting to the promises made by the pig owners to keep their premises clean and in a sanitary condition. These promises were not kept. Then the aforesaid resident, through his solicitor, brought the matter under the notice of the Local Government Board, who demanded a report. As this report again certified a nuisance the Council decided to take action ; but the Bench, by a majority of one, dismissed the case. It was, apparently, sufficient for them that the stys had got a proper cleansing on the morning of the prosecution, no matter what their condition had been for the past six months. Outside medical evidence was called to prove that some invalids were injuriously affected in their health by the presence of the stys. or rather by the condition in which they were kept, for the pig is by no means an unclean animal. Far be it from me to interfere with the " income " of anyone, whether from pigs or any other source, but it is only fair that the source of that income should not be a nuisance to the residents in the district. Branksome has been growing by leaps and bounds, and it will be interesting to watch the effect of this decision on that neighbourhood.

During the year there was an outbreak of swine fever at three different places, viz. :—Newtown, Victoria Road and Rossmore. The pigs were slaughtered.

Slaughter-houses and Bake-houses.—These have been frequently visited during the year, and found in a fairly satisfactory condition. Several quantities of diseased meat have been surrendered during the year. The butchers now notify the Inspector of its occurrence. This system insures the destruction of all diseased meat, and prevents it from being put on sale. Much attention has been given to this matter by the Inspector.

Factories and Workshops.—From the attached Table it will be seen that there were 149 visits of inspection made during the year. There was defects found in 15 instances, including six of want of cleanliness, and two each of overcrowding, insufficient, and defective sanitary accommodation. All the defects were remedied. In six cases written notices were served ; there were no prosecutions. There were 12 cases under the heading—" Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories." There are no underground bakehouses. Workshops on the register are 82.

Nuisances.—Apart from the pigstys, there were various other nuisances reported during the year. They were mostly connected with overflowing cesspools, defective privies, choked drains, and surface drainage. All were attended to and remedied as far as possible till the finishing of the sewers.

Smoke Nuisances.—There were 32 smoke observations taken during the year. Nuisances were dealt with at the Branksome Hygienic Steam Laundry, the Electric Light Works, and the Somerset and Dorset Joint Railway Engine Sheds. The Laundry and Electric Light Works has provided better coal ; the Electric Light Works has also provided mechanical spreaders. Hence there is much improvement from the former black smoke conditions. The Railway Company, apparently, have done nothing to abate their smoke nuisance, and had notice served on them. The matter is still under consideration and observation.

The alleged Gas Nuisance.—It will be remembered that this question has been occupying our attention for several years past. My predecessor, Mr. Stewart, was instructed by your Council to make enquiries as to the nuisance and report. This he did on January 24th, 1904 ; and his report was published in my annual report for 1904. In October and November, 1904, I received many written and verbal complaints as to this disagreeable smell, said to come from the gas works. On November 29th, 1904, I received a petition signed by 69 people resident in this neighbourhood. A copy of the same petition had been sent to Dr. Nunn, Medical Officer of Health, Bournemouth, in whose district five of the petitioners resided. Nine of the petitioners resided in the Poole district, leaving 55 who reside in your district. On November 30th I read this petition at your Sanitary Committee meeting, as well as two letters from Dr. Comyns Leach, the County Analyst. After discussion, I was authorised to call in expert assistance, the expense not to exceed £20. Every one of the 55 petitioners were called on personally, either by me or Mr. Ramsden, your Sanitary Inspector, and a series of questions submitted to them. It is impossible in this report to give in detail all their replies (I have retained the original copy), but it is evident there is a smell, varying in intensity according to the individual, from an "ordinary bad smell" to "offensive," "overpowering," "most infernal stench," "ghastly," etc. It occurs at "various times" of the "night or day," the "wind being N. or N.W.," but is "more frequent at night." It has "not been so frequent of late, or so bad" But I may here say that I have received many bitter complaints since that was written, especially in May, October, and November, 1905. Many of the petitioners "cannot describe the smell," but some say it is like "gas," "foul, dirty sink," "bad drains," "india-rubber," "chemical works," "sulphur," "sewer," etc., while others say it is like "rotten eggs" or "putrid matter." In the majority of cases "doors and windows are shut" when the "smell is on"; some have to resort to "brandy," or "their pipe." The majority of the petitioners found "no ill physical effects" from the smell, but a few complain of "sickness, or headache," or "vomitting," or "disturbance of breathing." Some think that the "smell adversely affects the district." and is "liable to drive likely residents and visitors away."

During the month of November, 1904, I visited and inspected the Gas Works on several occasions at different hours; also the Electric Light Works, Branksome Steam Laundry and Sharp's Pottery, accompanied on most occasions by Mr. Ramsden. As I have no remarks to make on the Electric Works, Laundry or Pottery, I leave them out of consideration.

I will briefly summarise the result of my visits to the Gas Works in the order of inspection.

(1) *Retort House.*—Saw coke removed and watered, when there was a distinct smell of sulphur given off, pervading, more or less, the whole yard.

(2) *Water Gas Plant.*—In the manufacture of water gas, coke is placed in an upright furnace fitted at the top with a pipe, which may be either open to the air or closed, when another pipe is opened that communicates with a gas-holder. The furnace is filled with coke and lighted, and a blast of air is used until all the coke is white hot. The products of combustion during this time are allowed to escape into the air. The outlet is then closed, and steam is blown into the bottom of the furnace. It is decomposed by the hot coke setting free hydrogen while the oxygen in the steam combines with the coke, forming carbon mononide (C.O.) which is highly poisonous. Both hydrogen and carbon mononide burn, giving considerable heat, but not illuminating flames like coal gas does; consequently water gas has to be either mixed with ordinary coal gas, or enriched by the vapour of some volatile liquid like benzene, or other oils suitable for the purpose. The current of air is passed through one of the cylinders (there are two) every nine minutes. As the unpurified gas is driven out through pipes to outside the building no smell was smelt near the apparatus.

(3) *Coke Filters* were clean and in good working order.

(4) *Water Gas Purifiers* (closed).—No effluvia.

(5) *Bog Ore, or Iron Pyrites.*—Here there was a slight but not unpleasant odour, and not sufficient to cause or account for the nuisance at the time of my visit. I saw the men turning it over, and I went into the midst of it. The bog ore is used to remove all sulphur compounds from the gas, and when fully charged, or contains 50 per cent. of sulphur, it is removed from the purifier and laid on the ground to be re-oxidized, when it can be used again. It was my first opinion that the bog ore was the source of the offensive gas, which I presumed to be sulphuretted hydrogen (H.2 S.) During the exposure of the bog ore to the air, ferric sulphide is oxidized to ferric oxide, but no doubt oxidation of the sulphur in the presence of atmospheric aqueous vapour gives rise to sulphuric acid (H.2 S.O.4), which, acting on the ferric sulphide gives rise to sulphuretted hydrogen (H.2 S). This gas can be detected by a piece of paper moistened with lead acetate or silver nitrate, the paper in either case turning black if H.2 S. is present. On this and all subsequent visits I failed to detect the presence of this gas during the oxidation, at least, not in sufficient quantity to be perceptible beyond a very short distance.

(6) *Lime Purifier.*—One had just been opened; there was no disagreeable smell whatever, and the lime was white. Lime is used to remove carbonic acid (C.O.2), but the use of lime is to be discontinued at these Works.

(7) *Ammonia Sulphate Works.*—Here there was a very strong odour preceptible, but could only be traced to a short distance.

(8) *Coke Filter Beds and Stream in Mr. Green's Yard.*—No disagreeable odour was perceived here. There was an oily film on the surface of the water which flows into the brook.

On December 15th Dr. Comyns Leach accompanied me and the Sanitary Inspector to the Gas Works, and made a careful inspection of the whole plant under the personal direction of Mr. Woodall and his staff. The result of that inspection is attached.

The County Laboratory,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset,
January 11th, 1905.

To Dr. Alexander, Medical Officer of Health,
Branksome Urban Council.

I beg to report for the information of your Council that on the 15th of December last I visited, in company with yourself and Mr. Ramsden, the Bournemouth Gas Works and their immediate neighbourhood, where, by the courtesy of the manager, I was shown over the chief parts where the alleged smells might have arisen.

I examined and tested the emanations from the material (iron oxide) recently removed from the purifiers, and each of the purifiers in process of purifying the crude gas.

The result of my visit was that I could find no evidence of any gas which would cause the nuisance complained of.

J. COMYNS LEACH, M.D., &c.

On November 22nd I was present at the opening of one of the purifiers, and again on December 23rd, when, by the courtesy and assistance of the staff, I was enabled to collect samples of air for analysis. The first sample was taken ten feet above the purifier, when the tap was opened; the second sample when the lid was removed; the third sample 150 yards away to leeward. The fourth sample was taken at 9 p.m., 500 yards away, the wind blowing directly over the works. The fifth sample was taken at the same time near the ammonia works and liquid tar tanks. The smell at this point, *i.e.*, the tar tanks, was very offensive, but could not be smelt at any great distance. The bottles containing the samples were carefully sealed and labelled, and were next day conveyed to Sturminster Newton by the Sanitary Inspector. Dr. Leach's analysis is as follows:—

The County Laboratory,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset,
January 11th, 1905.

To Dr. Alexander, Medical Officer of Health,
Branksome Urban Council.

I beg to report having received from you by Mr. Ramsden, on the 24th day of December, five bottles of air, carefully stoppered, and so luted that none of their contents could have escaped in transit.

A careful analysis of Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4 failed to show any contamination whatever ; the carbonic acid was normal, and there were no traces of sulphuretted hydrogen present.

It is clear, therefore, in these samples that either no contamination was present at the time of collection, or that the amount of contamination was too small to be detected.

In sample No. 5 there was decided evidence of free ammonia, and a trace of sulphide of ammonium, but neither sufficient to be carried by the air many yards and then detected.

J. COMYNS LEACH, M.D., &c.

I was very anxious to obtain a sample of air for analysis from the district where the smell was most complained of. I accordingly issued circulars to the complainants asking to be informed at the time when the smell was in evidence. The result of this was the receipt of letters or post-cards on the day following its occurrence, which were of course no use for my purpose. It was not until the evening of June 6th, 1905, that I was enabled to get the sample I wished. That bottle of air was sent to Dr. Comyns Leach for analysis, which is herewith **attached.**

The County Laboratory,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset,
June 13th, 1905.

Report on a Sample of Air taken from Princess Road at 10.15 *p.m., and received by me on June 6th,* 1905.

I have carefully examined the above sample and, with the exception of a trace of ammonia, have failed to find any contamination. The carbonic acid was normal, and there were no traces of sulphuretted hydrogen.

(Signed) J. COMYNS LEACH.

The first question one is likely to be asked on the occurrence of any smell, which is considered a nuisance, is—Have the drains and sewers been examined ? In order to answer this question in the affirmative, and eliminate this probable source, I asked the Sanitary Inspector to examine all the drains of the petitioners, as well as those in their immediate neighbourhood. In two cases the drains had been recently laid down, and no examination was necessary. All those examined were found more or less defective, many so much so that an order was made to have them remedied. In some of the cases the defects would be sufficient to cause sickness, headache, or sore throat to the inhabitants of those houses. But it is my opinion that these defects have nothing whatever to do with the alleged nuisance, for the following reasons :—(1) The smell is smelt by people whose drains are in good order. (2) By people who do not live in that particular neighbourhood. (3) It is only smelt in Princess and Poole Roads when the wind is N. or N.W. (4) It can be smelt to windward of the houses on these roads. (5) It is too diffuse and occasional for it to come from the sewers. (6) The same volume of sewer gas would cause more sickness in the district. (7) From personal knowledge and experience of the smell it is not sewer gas.

The result of my enquiry leads me to the following conclusions, which are without prejudice, and may be modified on further information :—

(1) That there is a very disagreeable smell occasionally occurring in this district, more frequently by night than day.

(2) That when it occurs doors and windows have to be closed.

(3) That no physical ill effects have resulted except in a few cases, and these have not been serious.

(4) That it has driven more than one family from the district, persons who intended becoming residents.

(5) That it has been smelt since the time water gas has been manufactured by the Bournemouth Gas and Water Co. at their works at Branksome.

(6) That in my opinion the smell is caused by the escape or discharge of noxious gases given off from the water gas plant.

At the Sanitary Committee meeting, held on May 31st, 1905, I certified that this smell arising from the Gas Works in my opinion, constituted a nuisance, and that it was for the Council to decide if the Bournemouth Gas and Water Company ought to be asked to abate the same. By a majority it was decided that an order be served on the Company, asking them to abate the nuisance within two months from that date. But, as far as I am aware, no notice was taken of this order, and to my own personal knowledge and observation the smell still continues. I asked the Council for further expert assistance, viz. : of one who was thoroughly conversant with the construction of gas manufacturing plant, and analyses of gases. This was refused on account of expense. Since then the matter was reported to the Local Government Board by several of the complainants, and one of their Inspectors has been sent to investigate the matter.

In this report I have not dealt with the brook which flows through the gas works, and into which offensive gas products were formerly discharged. This was fully reported on by Mr. Stewart, and dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector in conjunction with the Bournemouth Inspector. The brook has now been cleaned, and the nuisance from that source abated.

The Bournemouth Sanitary Authorities also conducted a limited enquiry as the result of the petition sent them, they proved the "existence of a smell," but were "at present unable to say it proceeds from the Gas Works" ; the "memorial requires more proof, and particularly as there are other causes which are engaging our attention," etc.

In conclusion, I must acknowledge the great courtesy extended to me during my enquiry by Mr. Woodall, the manager, and the whole staff of the Gas Works with whom I came in contact.

Sanitary Inspector.—Mr. Ramsden is to be congratulated for having been certified an "Inspector of Meat and other Foods" by the Royal Sanitary Institute ; and I am again indebted to him for the great assistance he has rendered me during the past year, and for the efficient way he has performed his duties. Attached to this report will be found the report of the Sanitay Inspector, as well as the tables of the Medical Officer of Health required by the Local Government Board.

Bridport—Mr. Walter E. Manby.

Area of the District.—651 acres.

Population.—(census 1901) is 5705. Estimated to the middle of 1905—5945 as compared with 5955 in 1904.

Births.—The number registered during the year is 100 (males 51, females 49) which is four more than last year—yielding a Birth Rate of 16·5 per 1,000 compared with 16·1 in 1904.

Deaths.—Number registered is 110. The Death Rate being 18·5 compared with 15·1 in 1904.

Average Age at Death is 55.

Infant Mortality is 110 per 1,000 births registered, compared with 122·2 in 1904.

Zymotic Mortality.—·009.

In Table IV. you find the causes of and ages at which death occurred. I give here a brief tabulation to show the proportion of deaths at the different periods of life.

Under 1 year	..	..	11	—compared with	11	in 1904.
1 and under 5	..	..	9	,,	7	,,
5 ,, 15	..	..	0	,,	2	,,
15 ,, 25	..	..	4	,,	4	,,
25 ,, 65	..	..	32	,,	33	,,
65 and upwards	..	..	55	,,	33	,,

There have been 17 deaths in Public Institutions.

The foregoing statistics shew us an increasing Birth Rate with a markedly increasing Death Rate. It is satisfactory to note, however, that fifty per cent of the Deaths occurred after the age of 65.

Infectious Diseases Notification Act. I am glad to be able to say that I have little to report under this heading. There has been a remarkable absence of Zymotic Diseases of a serious nature. Only one case of diphtheria having been notified, and that was an imported case. During June and July a serious outbreak of Measles occurred in the Infants' Department of the General School, and by my advice that department was closed for three weeks in order to check the spread of the malady.

Scavenging, Flushing, &c. The Scavenging of the District and the Flushing of Drains has been regularly carried out, excepting during the months of October and November when there was a shortage of water.

The refuse has been destroyed in the "Horsfall" Destructor completely and satisfactorily.

As a result of certain complaints that unwholesome emanations were proceeding from the ground ventilators along the course of the sewer in St. Andrew's and West Bay Roads, additional ventilating shafts have been erected to abolish the nuisance.

Slaughter Houses and Bakehouses. The usual annual inspections have been made. In the case of one bakehouse, lime washing was found to be urgently required; but this was promptly done on the necessity being pointed out.

Factories and Workshops. The inspections as required by the Act have been made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Cowsheds and Dairies. I have inspected these during the year and found them generally well attended to and in good sanitary condition.

Isolation Hospital. Has been visited by me quarterly. It is well looked after. Only one case of Scarlet Fever has occupied a bed during the year, and that case was admitted in 1904.

Housing of the Working Classes. Twelve houses have been entirely remodelled. Otherwise the housing is satisfactory.

Water Supply. The reports on the Quarterly Analysis have invariably pronounced it good for drinking purposes. Any complaints during the year have received my attention. I hope that during this year all the dust carts may be fitted with covers.

Port of Bridport. I have visited and inspected all ships coming from foreign ports of which I have received notice from the Custom's Officer. No sickness was discovered in any instance.

Dorchester—Dr. E. J. Day.

This report I am pleased to be able to state shows that practically the past year, 1905, was as healthy as the preceding one, which is saying a good deal. The various details showing this are given in the same order as in 1904, to facilitate comparison.

Acreage.—The Acreage is 1653, no less than 1092 acres having been added when the Borough was extended in 1900.

Population.—The population at the last census, 1901, was 9,458, which is now estimated to be 10,366 (the natural increase during the year having been 107, against 129 in 1904). Making allowance for the new houses the population cannot now be less than 10,500, on this figure the birth and death rates have been calculated.

Births.—The number of births registered was 228 (males 117, females 111) against 245 in 1904, 228 in 1903, 222 in 1902, 249 in 1901, and 195 in 1900, giving a *birth-rate* of 21·7 per 1000 [that for England and Wales in 1905 was 27·2 per 1,000 (which is ·7 per 1,000 below the rate in 1904, and lower than the rate in any other year on record), this (the rate for England and Wales) when compared with the average in the ten years 1895-1904 shows a decrease of 1·8 per 1,000].

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered is 141, making due allowance for the deaths which occurred outside this District among persons belonging thereto, and for the deaths of persons which occurred within this district among persons not belonging thereto, this number is reduced to 121 (males 59, females 62) giving a *death-rate* of 11·5 per 1,000, against 11·2 in 1904, and 15·2 for England and Wales, this 15·2 per 1,000 is 1 per 1,000 below the rate in 1904 and lower than the rate in any other year on record, and compared with the average rate in the ten years, 1895-1904, the *death-rate* in 1905 shews a decrease of 2 per 1,000—that is for England and Wales. The *death rate* of this Borough is therefore 2·9 per 1,000 below that for 141 smaller towns tabulated by the Registrar General, and 3·7 below the rate for England and Wales, which is most satisfactory. The following is the *death-rate* since my appointment in 1879:—

1880, 18·9	1881, 15·7	1882, 18·1	1883, 15·9
1884, 15·9	1885, 16	1886, 21·7	1887, 17
1888, 13·8	1889, 14·9	1890, 16·3	1891, 16·1
1892, 19·5	1893, 15·5	1894, 12·8	1895, 13·6
1896, 15·7	1897, 11·4	1898, 14·6	1899, 13·8
1900. 10·9	1901, 15	1902, 12·7	1903, 9·4
1904, 11·2	1905, 11·5		

From these figures it will be seen that the average for the first three years was 17·5 per 1,000, and 16·7 per 1,000 for the first ten years, against 10·7 for the last three years and 12·6 per 1,000 for the last ten years. The average age at death was 42, against 39 in 1904, 45 in 1903, 44 in 1902, 35 in 1901, 43 in 1900, 37 in 1899, 44 in 1898, 38 in 1897 and 34 in 1896.

Zymotic Death-rate.—The Zymotic Death-rate (deaths due to the chief Epidemic Diseases) was only ·1 per 1,000 against 1·06 in 1904, there having been only one death, and that was from the effects of whooping cough. The *death-rate* in England and Wales was 1·52, in other words Dorchester is 15 times healthier than England and Wales as regards deaths from Epidemic Diseases.

Infant Mortality.—The rate of Infant Mortality (measured by the number of deaths of infants under one year of age to births registered) was 81 per 1,000 births against 73 in 1904, 51 in 1903, 90 in 1902, 148 in 1901 and 107 in 1900 (that for England and Wales in 1904 having been 128).

Child Mortality.—The rate of Child Mortality measured by the deaths of children over one year of age but under five years was 77 per 1,000 births, against 34 in 1903 and 40 in 1902.

No death was due to small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, typhus fever, enteric fever, cholera, plague, diarrhœa, puerperal fever, erysipelas, nor pleurisy.

The chief causes of the deaths were heart disease 18, consumption, cancer and pneumonia 9 each, bronchitis and accidents 5 each. Old age accounted for 12 (18 were between 70 and 80, 6 between 80 and 90, and 2 over 90).

Death Rate and Analysis of Mortality :—

	Birth-rate.	Death-rate.	Principal Zymotic Diseases—Col. 4 to 10.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Whooping Cough.	Fever.	Diarrhœa.	Deaths under one year per 1,000 births.
Columns—	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
England and Wales	27·2	15·2	1·52	..	·32	·11	·16	·25	·09	·59	128
76 Great Towns	28·2	15·7	1·88	..	·39	·13	·16	·29	·08	·83	140
141 Smaller Towns	26·9	14·4	1·5	..	·31	·11	·15	·23	·13	·57	132
Dorchester 1896	25·8	14·9	2·2	..	1·8	·1	..	·2	·1	..	130
,, 1897	21·5	11·4	·4	..	..	·2	..	·1	·1	..	120
,, 1898	21·1	14·6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	136
,, 1899	20·6	13·8	·3	..	..	..	·1	..	..	·2	158
,, 1900	19·5	10·9	·5	..	·3	..	..	..	..	·2	107
,, 1901	25·5	15	·6	..	·6	..	..	..	..	..	148
,, 1902	22·2	12·7	·5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	90
,, 1903	22·8	9.4	·2	..	..	..	..	·1	·1	..	52
,, 1904	23·7	11·2	·1	..	·9	..	..	·1	..	..	73
,, 1905	21·7	11·5	·1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81

Infectious Illnesses.—Nineteen cases were notified of Infectious Illness, sixteen being scarlet Fever, all of a very mild type, and three erysipelas; fourteen of the scarlet fever cases were removed to the Sanitary Hospital, to which course the parents did not object.

Hospital.—Since the Hospital was opened in 1896, no less than 164 have been under treatment, with only two deaths—those of infants—this is very satisfactory. The particulars are as follows :—

	Diphtheria.	Typhoid Fever.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Total.
1896	1	—	—	20	21
1897	1	—	—	28	29
1898	1	—	1	2	4
1899	—	—	—	9	9
1900	1	—	1	5	7
1901	—	—	—	46	46
1902	—	1	1	20	22
1903	4	—	--	5	9
1904	1	—	—	2	3
1905	—	—	—	14	14
	9	1	3	151	164

Of the above, 17 cases were admitted from outside the Borough. The Council some years ago decided to admit no more from outside this district. They have also decided not to take in patients suffering from Typhoid, as they can be treated in the Dorset County Hospital.

Patients from the Barracks are now to be admitted on payment of one guinea per week, the same as patients who are ratepayers, if the rateable value of the house is under £25, but if over and under £50, the fee in future is to be two guineas per week, and if over £50 three guineas per week ; this is to include Medical Attendance and Nursing as well as maintenance, but if a special nurse is desired, then that will be an extra as well as her board. The Council are contemplating a change in the Nursing in order to save money, but at present nothing has been decided. A new scheme, however, is under contemplation.

Water Supply.—The well is 210 feet deep, the last 90 feet being a boring through chalk and is far away from any source of contamination, the Council about four years ago having purchased the land around it, which they let out for grazing sheep. The water is hard—20 grains of total solids per gallon. Recently I gave an analysis and so need not now repeat it.

There are still some earth closets in this district, and they are kept fairly clean, and some at the Sanitary Hospital where Ives' Patent Disinfectant Tank is in use.

Phthisis.—There were only nine deaths from Consumption, against 12 in 1904, which is very satisfactory—only ·85 per 1,000 against 1·16 in 1904.

Factory Act—Factories, Workshops, Laundries and Homework—

	Inspections.	Notices.
Workshops	50	14
Workplaces	32	—
Homeworkers	8	—
	90	14

DEFECTS FOUND—

	Found.	Remedied.
Want of cleanliness	12	7
Want of ventilation	1	1
	13	8

OTHER MATTERS.

Underground Bakehouses in use during 1904	4
Lists of Outworkers	9
Outworkers	24
Addresses received from other authorities of outworkers	1
Total number of Workshops on Register	89

The Borough Surveyor, Mr. G. J. Hunt, C.E., gives me the following list of the chief sanitary improvements carried out during the year—levelling the land and forming the irrigation area at the sewage works; laying on a water supply from the mains in St. George's road to Loud's Mill; ventilation of the Town Hall much improved (further improvements at a cost of £1,000 are being contemplated by the Council and will soon be carried into effect); erecting buttresses to primary beds at the Sewage Works; kerbing and channelling Damer's road; sewering Lorne, Louise and Cambridge Roads, Victoria Park, &c.

Midwives' Act.—Five Midwives practice in this Borough (4 in 1903) the same number as in 1904, but one is 79 years old and will not probably do much more work on account of her age and a severe illness (bronchitis) from which she is slowly recovering. One death occurred whilst being attended by a midwife, who called in a Medical man—on fully investigating the matter no blame was to be attached to the Midwife.

I have recently given a full detailed report of the Sewage Works so need not now repeat the description.

Rainfall.—The total Rainfall was 27·1 inches, against 37·6 in 1904; at Weymouth, the rainfall was about 21 inches, and 50 hours more sunshine was experienced there than in Dorchester, but in 1904, the sunshine recorder in this Borough registered 38 hours more sunshine than even at Weymouth.

Summary.—Comparing the past year with the previous ones, the following are matters for congratulation:—

(1) The death-rate 11·5 per 1,000, practically as low as it was in 1904 (11·2). England and Wales being 15·2 in 1904.

(2) The death-rate from Epidemic Diseases has been reduced from 1 to ·1 per 1,000 (this is lower than it has been during the past ten years). The rate for England and Wales was 1·5 in 1905.

(3) The death-rate from Consumption, 1·16, has been reduced during the year to ·85 per 1,000, this is very satisfactory.

When the rates are not quite so high I hope the Council will consider the advisability of establishing the following:—Public abbatoir, public baths, water softening, a steam disinfector, refuse destructor and municipal lodging house.

From the summary of this report just given, it cannot be doubted that this Borough ranks amongst the healthiest in the South of England.

Lyme Regis—Mr. James Spurr.

Area of the District.—1,394 acres.

Population.—(Census of 1901) 2,095. Estimated to the middle of 1905—2,113.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 38 (20 males and 18 females). *Birth-rate* 17·9 per 1,000. Birth-rate 1904 21·3.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 21 (6 males and 15 females). *Death-rate* 9·9 per 1,000. Death-rate 1904 15·6.

The Average Age at Death was 57·2 years.

The ages at which death occurred were:—

Under 1 year	2 deaths.
Between 1 year and 5 years	0 ,,
,, 5 ,, 15 ,,	0 ,,
,, 15 ,, 25 ,,	0 ,,
,, 25 ,, 65 ,,	9 ,,
Over 65 years	10 ,,

Of those over 65 years, 2 were between 70 and 80 years, and 4 were 80 years and upwards.

The various causes of deaths were as follows :—

Heart Disease	3
Bronchitis, &c.	3
Phthisis	2
Accident	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	4
Other causes	7

Two Inquests were held during the year.

Zymotic Mortality.—Nil.

Infant Mortality.—Two children under one year of age died during the year, giving an Infant Mortality of 52·6 per 1,000 births. The Infant Mortality for 1904 was 44·4 per 1,000 births.

Prevalence of Disease.—Notification.—I have received during the year notification of 2 cases of scarlet fever, 2 of diptheria, and 2 of erysipelas. None of the cases proved fatal.

The two cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in May in the house of Mr. Robert Hallett, in Pound Road. As milk was retailed from this house, I suggested that the milk should not be brought into the house or premises but taken directly from the cowsheds to the customers, this plan I believe was faithfully carried out and there was no spread of the disease. This house was thoroughly disinfected and town water laid on.

The two cases of diphtheria were my own children and as at this time there was an epidemic of diphtheria in Up-Lyme, it was there they probably contracted it. I was able to keep them well isolated, and fortunately the malady did not spread. Although my water supply is not directly from the town system, my spring comes from the same hill-side as that from which the old town supply is drawn. I have analysed my water and found it to be good. I also had my drains examined and found them in good order.

The infected rooms were disinfected with Formalin.

Water Supply.—Our excellent supply continues to be very satisfactory. There has practically been a constant supply throughout the town during the year.

Sewerage and Drainage—Excrement Disposal.—The new system of drainage continues to work well. I rejoice that your Council is about to relay the Church Street Sewer and connect it with the new system near the old Malt House. As I have frequently had complaints from houses adjoining this sewer I consider this work most necessary and urgent.

Isolation Hospital—Means for Disinfection, &c.—There is no Isolation Hospital with the exception of the two rooms at the Cobb, fitted up for the reception of infectious cases coming here by sea.

Sulphur and Formalin are used for disinfection.

Sunshine and Rain.—The Rousdon report is—Rainfall for the year 25·57 inches, which is about six inches below the average. It was the driest year recorded here since 1883.

Sunshine—1674·5 hours or 45 hours below average. At my house I registered 25·61 inches of rain which fell on 170 days. This is ten inches less than in 1904.

Housing of the Working Classes.—About six new cottages have been built during the year. The increased water supply and new drainage have much improved the sanitary condition of the cottages in the town.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses and Milkhouses.—These have all been inspected periodically by the Sanitary Inspector and myself and were found to be kept in a sanitary condition. The water supply to the slaughter-house of Messrs. Loud & Son, in Poole's Court is not a good one as it practically fails during the summer.

The Common Lodging House and Fried Fish Shop.—Are both exceedingly well managed.

Fish Unfit for Human Food.—On May 9th, at the Station, I condemned as unfit for human food two small boxes of mackerel, for G. Gear, of Charmouth, from Messrs. Davis, of Milford Haven, also on May 15th, a barrel of hake for J. Seager, from Messrs. Veale, of Brixham.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—There are four factories (including the Steam Laundry) and twenty workshops in the town, which were all inspected periodically by the Sanitary Inspector and myself. The sanitation of workshops and factories was satisfactory and in no case was there any overcrowding.

There is no homework done from any workshop.

Poole.—Mr. G. H. Carrington.

Area of the District.—The area of the Borough is 5,333 acres (not including 2,200 acres of tidal water and foreshore), distributed amongst the different parishes as follows :—

Parish of St. James	153 Acres
,, Longfleet	1265 ,,
,, Parkstone	2838 ,,
,, Hamworthy	1077 ,,
	5333

Population, &c.—The number of houses and the population of the Borough at the census of 1901 was as follows :—

	No. of Houses.	Population.
Parish of St. James	1631	7670
,, Longfleet	915	4159
,, Parkstone	1338	6550
,, Hamworthy ..	242	1084
	4126	19463

Average number of persons per house, 4·77.

Assuming that the rate of increase continues, as it has done during the last ten years, I estimate the population to be 21,800 to the middle of the year.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 582—293 males and 289 females. The birth-rate was 26·7. In 1904 it was 27, thus showing a slight decrease. Natural increase in population, that is, the excess of births over deaths during the year, 239.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered during the year was 343—161 males and 182 females. The death-rate was 15·7 per 1,000. There was a decrease of 21 as compared with 1904. Average age at death, 41 years.

Infantile Mortality.—There were 66 deaths under one year of age, which gave an infantile death-rate of 113 per 1,000 registered births. In 1904 this death-rate was 109 per 1,000.

The Zymotic Death-rate is calculated upon deaths from the seven zymotic diseases, viz. :—smallpox, scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria and membranous croup, whooping cough, fever (typhus, enteric and other continued) and diarrhœa. During 1905 five deaths were attributed to whooping cough, one to measles, four to diphtheria, one to membraneous croup, eight to enteric fever, and one to diarrhœa. The zymotic death-rate was ·90 per 1,000, as compared with 1.38 per 1,000 in 1904.

Phthisis caused 29 deaths, giving a death-rate of 1·33 per 1,000, as compared with 1·38 per 1,000 in 1904.

The following tables shew the birth-rates, death-rates, zymotic death-rates and infantile death-rates for England and Wales in 1905, and the corresponding rates for Poole :—

Annual Rates per 1000 living.

	Births.	Deaths from all causes.	Deaths from seven chief Epidemic diseases	Infantile Mortality. Annual Death-rate of Infants under 1 year per 1000 births.
England and Wales ..	27·2	15·2	1·52	128
76 Great Towns ..	28·2	15.7	1·88	140
141 Smaller Towns ..	26·9	14·4	1.50	132
England and Wales, less the 217 Towns	26·3	14·9	1·09	113
Poole	26·6	15.7	·90	113

The monthly returns of births were as follows :—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
January ..	21	..	19	..	40
February ..	22	..	22	..	44
March ..	22	..	37	..	59
April ..	23	..	26	..	49
May ..	28	..	26	..	54
June ..	26	..	28	..	54
July ..	28	..	18	..	46
August ..	28	..	31	..	59
September ..	25	..	20	..	45
October ..	22	..	21	..	43
November ..	21	..	18	..	39
December ..	27	..	23	..	50
	293		289		582

The monthly returns of Deaths were as follows :—

	Males.		Females.		Total.
January ..	19	..	20	..	39
February ..	18	..	18	..	36
March ..	15	..	16	..	31
April ..	13	..	13	..	26
May ..	11	..	17	..	28
June ..	19	..	11	..	30
July ..	10	..	15	..	25
August ..	8	..	9	..	17
September ..	15	..	10	..	25
October ..	17	..	16	..	33
November ..	9	..	20	..	29
December ..	7	..	17	..	24
	161		182		343

The various Parishes and Hospitals were credited with the following number of deaths :—

Poole (St. James)	128
Poole Harbour	2
Parkstone	103
Longfleet	57
Hamworthy	11
Union Workhouse	21
Cornelia Hospital	20
Fever Hospital	1
Total	343

The ages at which deaths occurred were :—

Under 1 year	66
Between 1 and 5 years	28
,, 5 ,, 15 ,,	14
,, 15 ,, 25 ,,	14
,, 25 ,, 65 ,,	109
Over 65 years	112

The causes of the deaths registered are tabulated in Tables IV and V :—

The Infectious Diseases Notification Act.—The diseases that must be notified as soon as possible by the attendant medical practitioners to the Sanitary Authority under this Act are smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, or membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus, enteric, relapsing and continued fevers, puerperal fever and plague.

The total number of notifications received by me during the year 1905 was 103, comprising 20 cases of scarlet fever, 4 of Smallpox, 15 of diphtheria, 1 of membranous croup, 39 cases of enteric fever and 24 cases of erysipelas.

The following table shews the mouthly distribution in the various parishes of notifications during 1905 :—

Month.	Locality.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Membranous Croup.	Smallpox.	Total.	
January	Poole	..	..	2	..	..	..	2	
	Longfleet	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	
	Parkstone	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	
	Hamworthy	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	5
February	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
March	Poole	3	..	2	..	..	..	5	
	Parkstone	..	2	..	..	..	..	2	
	Hamworthy	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	8
April	Poole	..	..	..	1	1	..		2
May	Poole	1	..	..	2	..	1	4	
	Parkstone	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	
	Hamworthy	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	6
June	Poole	..	..	..	3	..	1	4	
	Longfleet	..	..	2	1	..	2	5	9
July	Poole	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	
	Parkstone	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	
	Longfleet	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	
	Hamworthy	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	4
August	Poole	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	
	Parkstone	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	
	Longfleet	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	8
September	Poole	..	1	..	3	..	..	4	
	Parkstone	3	..	..	..	..	..	3	
	Longfleet	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	8
October	Poole	..	5	2	11	..	..	18	
	Parkstone	2	1	..	3	..	..	6	
	Longfleet	1	1	..	2	..	..	4	28
November	Poole	1	..	1	4	..	..	6	
	Parkstone	1	3	1	4	..	..	9	
	Hamworthy	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	17

Month.	Locality.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Enteric Fever.	Membranous Croup.	Smallpox.	Total.
December	Poole	..	..	2	..	..	..	2
	Parkstone	2	..	1	..	..	..	3
	Longfleet	..	..	3	..	..	..	3
								— 8
	Total	20	15	24	39	1	4	103
	Poole	5	6	10	26	1	2	50
	Parkstone	12	7	4	7	..	..	30
	Longfleet	1	2	8	4	..	2	17
	Hamworthy	2	..	2	2	..	..	6
	Total	20	15	24	39	1	4	103

Smallpox.—Four cases were notified of this disease—two in Poole and two in Longfleet. One case occurred in May and three in June. The first case was that of a man who had been working for twelve months at the new barracks on Salisbury Plain. He came direct to Poole and stayed at an eating house in High Street about a week before he was seen by a medical man. During that time he spent the days laying about in the Ladies' Walking Field and the Park, and visited many public houses in the town. The bars of these publics were disinfected at once, and the persons who served the man were vaccinated. He had never been vaccinated and had a severe attack. Three weeks and two days after he was removed to hospital a case occurred in Charles Road, Longfleet. This man did not know meeting the first case, but must have come in contact with him. The third and fourth cases occurred about a fortnight after, one a young man lodging in Emerson Road, and the other a married woman living in Kingston Road, Longfleet. They were relations. The three last cases had been vaccinated in early life, and were not so severe as the first one. In my opinion the epidemic was arrested by the immediate revaccination of all those who had been in contact with the cases. It has been proved that if a person is vaccinated within two or three days of contact with a case of small-pox (the incubation period of which is 12-14 days) the small-pox virus is successfully combatted. All the cases were received into the isolation hospital and discharged cured. The cost of the outbreak, including payment for the destruction of bedding and the providing of new outfits for the patients was £34, which I consider a very low figure.

Diphtheria.—15 cases were reported—six in Poole, seven in Parkstone and two in Longfleet. Four were admitted to the Isolation Hospital. There were four deaths, one of which occurred at the Fever Hospital; four cases occurred in January and March, 11 cases between September and November. All these cases were visited and enquired into, but no definite cause could be ascertained. Scarlet fever was slightly prevalent at the same time, and Diphtheria frequently follows diseases affecting the naso-pharynx or larynx. Indeed, any cause that tends to render the condition of the throat abnormal may produce a suitable nidus for Diphtheria. Injections of antitoxin were given in most cases. In one case the mother contracted the disease from her daughter, whom she nursed. In 1904 32 cases were reported.

Membranous Croup.—One case was notified and proved fatal.

Erysipelas.—Twenty-four cases were reported; there were no deaths. Twenty occurred between the ages of 25 and 65 and were of a slight character. Ten occurred in Poole, three in Parkstone, nine in Longfleet and two in Hamworthy.

Enteric or Typhoid Fever.—Thirty-nine cases were notified during the year. Ten under 5 years of age, five between 5 and 15 years, five between 15 and 25 years, eighteen between 25 and 65 years, and one over 65 years. Of these, 26 occurred in Poole (St. James'). seven in Parkstone, four in Longfleet and two in Hamworthy. Two were notified in March, one in April, two in May, four in June, one in July, two in August, three in September, sixteen in October and ten in November; no case in December. The disease is usually most prevalent from September to November. There does not appear to be a common cause for the outbreak, such as water or milk, in that case the epidemic would have spread more rapidly. The water supply was analysed, both chemically and bacteriologically, by Professor Somerville in April, and the sample found to be satisfactory. It is found by experience that in numerous localities enteric fever is endemic notwithstanding a water supply of undoubted purity. This appears to be the case in Poole, as 39 cases were notified also in 1901. The average for the ten years, 1896-1905, is 17 cases. The same conditions which favour the development of diarrhœa also obtain in connection with typhoid fever. Made soils, such as the Quay end of Poole, impregnated with animal filth, old cesspools, etc., furnish suitable localities for the development of typhoid bacillus, which remains alive in soil containing organic matter for many months, and when the conditions of soil temperature and surface moisture are favourable, there is a marked multiplication of the bacillus, as it is out of rather than in the human body that the infectiveness of the poison is developed. Enteric fever is sometimes a mild disease and unrecognised even by the patient himself, who goes about his avocation unaware that he is spreading contagion broadcast. It is in those persons who are out of health suffering from diarrhœa, caused by eating shell-fish, etc., or weakened by an attack of influenza, that less resistance is offered to the invasion of the contagion, as healthy persons escape infection owing to the virus being destroyed in swallowing by the gastric juice. Pettenkofer, in Munich, found that attacks of enteric fever were connected with fluctuations of the ground water. In the lower part of Poole where ground water is so near the surface, we get sudden rises and sudden falls. In hot, dry autumns, the ground water is low and typhoid is more prevalent. During the last few years the streets of Poole have been continually dug up, owing to the sewerage, gas-pipes and water-pipes, and consequently the bacilli of typhoid fever have been brought to the surface, carried away in the surface water drains and also blown about as dust. Now that every house in the Borough has been connected with the main sewer and the old privy vaults and cesspools have been done away with and replaced by water-closets, I trust the remaining typhoid bacilli may be starved to death.

The bacilli may also be carried into houses by means of the ground air.

Oysters.—In 17 cases oysters had been eaten two or three weeks before the cases were notified. These oysters were all caught in deep water near Brownsea Castle (no oysters are now stored in the Hamworthy beds), but at times there is no doubt the fishermen catch more than they can dispose of. These are kept in tubs in backyards and living rooms, the water changed occasionally. The oysters at the bottom soon lose their vitality owing to the mud from the shells which sinks to the bottom of the tub. Most of the fishermen live near the quay, and the bacilli of typhoid may get carried to the oyster tubs for the reason above-mentioned. Notices were issued by me to the local papers warning persons not to eat shell-fish of any kind (oysters, cockles, and mussels) which had not been thoroughly cooked. Also printed bills were posted up by order of your Council.

The chief means of spread of enteric fever is by the urine and fæces, and nurses who have to empty bed-pans unless very careful to wash their hands afterwards, using the nail brush, are very liable to become infected, probably when eating food afterwards. The urine contains the typhoid bacilli, sometimes for months after convalescence, and it, as well as the fæces, should be rigidly disinfected. Amongst the cases notified two or three members of a family were infected by contact with each other.

Legislative measures are required in the interest of the public health to prohibit the catching or laying down of oysters in dangerous localities. Section 4 of the Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890. which enables authorities to prohibit the supply of milk, which is causing, or likely to cause, disease, might also be made to apply to oysters and other shell fish.

Dr. Klein, in his investigations on Typhoid Baccilli carried out on behalf of the Worshipful Company of Fishmongers, says—" Since we know that the patient. weeks after convalescence has set in. voids typhoid bacilli by the urine, the presence in any locality of a convalescent from typhoid fever, in which the stool has perhaps ceased to be infective, remains nevertheless a fruitful source of typhoid bacilli. We may have a seaside place in whose population no typhoid cases have occurred, but to which seaside place a person convalescent from typhoid fever has been taken for recuperating: the sewage of this seaside place, ostensibly free from typhoid fever, would nevertheless contain plenty of typhoid bacilli, which might find access to shell-fish laid down or kept on or near the shore of such a place."

There were eight deaths notified. Four patients were admitted to the Isolation Hospital, and eight patients into the Cornelia Hospital. Our thanks are most heartily given to the Committee of the Cornelia Hospital for allowing their admission, and to the medical and nursing staff for their kind care and attention. One case, a girl from the Dorset Home, was an imported one.

Fever Hospital.—Seventeen cases have been admitted, viz.:—four of smallpox, four typhoid fever, three diphtheria and six of scarlet fever. One case of diphtheria died. The nursing, house-keeping and disinfecting have been most efficiently carried out by Nurse Budden and her husband. Extra nursing assistance was obtained for the typhoid cases. I must compliment Nurse Budden, especially, on the great care and precaution she displayed in nursing the smallpox cases.

SANITARY WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR.

Water Supply.—The Poole Water Works Company's supply has been constant. In March, your Committee asked Professor Somerville, of King's College, London, to inspect the sources of the water supply, and to examine samples, taken at various places, as to their chemical and bacteriological purity. Also to advise on any method for the elimination of the iron and peaty acids, principally found in the supply from the Lilliput reservoirs, which were complained of by residents in Parkstone, as causing the water supplied to be injurious to health, and to be deleterious to the internal water fittings in the houses. I accompanied the Committee with Dr. Somerville and Directors of the Water Company over all the water works and sources of supply.

Below is Professor Somerville's Report:—

King's College, London, W.C.
12th April, 1905.

The Sanitary Committee of the Borough and Town of Poole.

Gentlemen,

I hereby lay before you my Report on the Water Supply of your District.

On personal inspection of the sources of this water on the 3rd and 4th March last, I found that it is raised from some half-dozen districts of Bagshot Sands, covered by peat, all situated within a few miles of Poole. These Bagshot deposits are rich in oxides of iron. The decomposition of the overlying vegetable matter results in the formation of humic and other acids which dissolve the iron compounds and hold the metal in solution. The main objection, from a health point of view, to such acidity is the lead solvency which it confers upon a water. By reason of this acidity Poole waters should not come in contact with lead or zinc. Here let me point out for the information of those gentlemen who very rightly enquired concerning the influence on health of such acids that, *per se*, and apart from lead, these acids, in the small quantities found in your waters, have no known deleterious effect upon the health of a community. There is no evidence to show that humic acid and its associates, even in much larger quantities than those obtaining in the present instance, ever exert any influence in producing dyspepsia. Waters highly charged with iron are known to produce constipation, but it is highly doubtful whether even double the amount found in the worst sample of untreated Poole water would, under any circumstances, produce a recognisable degree of such trouble. From the point of view of the public health of your district I am glad to be able to say that I see no cause for the least anxiety.

The inconvenience, however, caused by rust of iron, etc., in a household water supply may be great, and in the matters of iron mould in linen, precipitation of tannin from liquids contained in this substance, etc., it is most desirable that a domestic water should be free from iron. In the case of Poole I think it unfortunate that, originally, water was not sought further afield, as the treatment of acid and ferruginous waters, such as supplied by your district, is one of the most difficult problems presented to the chemist and water engineer.

I have analysed thirteen samples selected from different districts spread over the entire catchment area. The results of these analyses are tabulated for comparison in the accompanying schedule. The catchment areas (with the single exception of a small district known as Foxholes), tributary streams, reservoirs and filters are all in good condition. In order that you may follow the investigation, I think it well to discuss the districts separately.

Foxholes, represented by No. 7 sample, is a very small catchment area, yielding a water at present organically good, but in that inhabited cottages are situated on the area, and above the origin of the water, I urge that this source be cut off, for the obvious reason that if at any time a case of typhoid occurred in one of the cottages the water would run an unjustifiable risk of direct contamination. All the waters are organically pure, but acid, and contain iron.

The essence of the problem is the elimination of acidity and iron.

Were the question one of selecting a catchment area I should at once say go further afield and tap the large chalk district lying some six or seven miles north-west of Poole. But as this is, I presume, out of the question, the next best thing is to cut out those tributaries containing most acid, and consequently most iron, and to neutralize as far as possible the remainder.

Referring to the table of analyses it will be seen that the total solids and hardness throughout are low, and that the lime and chalk added do not materially increase either of these figures; therefore I would advise increasing the amounts of lime and chalk (especially lime) all round, to, say, double the amount at present used, one grain to one gallon, and in the case of the Lilliput district, which possesses the highest acidity and iron, figures to treble that amount. That portion of the Lilliput district represented by Sample B, and furnishing an acidity figure of 3·650 before treatment, I should advise being cut out. The increase in lime and chalk will mean some increase in the area of filtration beds, and also a slight increase, perhaps, in the depth of the sand layer of these beds. Strict attention should be paid to the periodic cleansing of mains, as accumulations of iron rust and vegetable debris are ever in formation; the sediments shown me on the afternoon of our first meeting were due to the previous dislodgment from some pipe of such an accumulation. After the cleansing of a pipe, or sand of a filter bed the first twenty-four hours water passing through should run to waste. The more deeply placed the pipes in the catchment area the better, but no relation exists between the depth of such pipes and the decrease (through filtration) of acidity; so that the depth at which intake pipes are placed cannot be made a substitute for neutralisation by the addition of alkalies.

As the population of the Parkstone area increases, new ground must inevitably be taken in for raising additional water; the chalk formation, above referred to, would meet this need, and the addition of such chalk water to Poole water would be most helpful in neutralising the acidity of the latter. Considering the proximity of inhabited areas, the characters of the water, and the limited area of supply, the sooner the Lilliput district is supplanted by a new scheme the better.

The Longfleet supply is good in all respects except acidity and iron. Samples Nos. 5 and 6 show that the acidity of the filtered water is a little higher than that of the filtered Lilliput sample No. 4. Lime would render some service here. In course of time, as the district becomes inhabited, this source will be abandoned.

Alderney and Waterloo (untreated) do not dissolve so much iron as the previous districts, for the presumable reason that the sands contain less iron compounds. All things considered, the water supplied from the Broadstone reservoir is remarkably good.

I have to record my great indebtedness to the courteous attention and generous spirit of real assistance contributed by Mr. Barnes of the Water Company, who entered into the investigation with enthusiasm. Considering the nature of the material with which he has had to work I consider that all credit is due to him for the degree of success which he has attained. It remains now for your Council and the Water Company to heartily co-operate, on the lines I have indicated, to make that success still more complete.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

DAVID SOMERVILLE.

Your Council has recently appointed a Committee to confer with the Water Company as to the purchase of the Water Works by the Borough of Poole.

New Buildings during 1905.—During the year the Council approved of 182 sets of plans, including 315 new dwelling houses, 26 sets of plans having been disapproved. Total number of houses erected, 203; additions or alterations to houses, 54; number of old houses removed for rebuilding, 2; number in course of erection, 31st December, 1905, 60.

Sewage Disposal and Flushing Systems.—The sewage disposal systems throughout the Borough have worked very satisfactorily during the past year.

Some improvements have been made to the pumping machinery at the Gas Quay Station, whereby a larger quantity of solid matter, such as paper, rags, etc., are now lifted with the sewage, and thereby a less quantity of solids have to be removed from the collecting tank.

During the year ending December, 1904, there were 47,582,760 gallons of sewage lifted at the station to the gravitating main at Seldown; during the past year the volume has increased to 67,446,130 gallons.

Mr. Elford, the Borough Engineer, is convinced that many surface water drains have during the year been surreptitiously connected to the system, the volume increasing only on wet days.

About 16,500,000 gallons of salt water has been used, chiefly for the working of the sewage lifting machinery near the Middle Park Gates, and for sewer flushing.

A considerable amount of sewer flushing is necesssary in the town on account of the number of dead ends of the sewer. This flushing is done at regular intervals by a van holding 350 gallons in the roadways, and in the courts and alleys by a small hand cart.

No complaimts have been received throughout the year of smells from the sewers or ventilators in the pumping area; this, no doubt, is due to the excellent system of flushing, and the great care taken in keeping the sewers clear of deposit.

I regret having occasion to report on the thoughtlessness of some persons residing in the town who are continually placing quantities of fish, joints of meat, and large masses of the entrails of animals, some in a semi-putrid condition, in the sewers, which find their way to the receiving tank at the pumping station. As this cannot pass through the pumps it has to be removed by the sewer men, and is not only an offensive duty but injurious to health. Most of the solid masses referred to were too large to pass through an ordinary house drain, and, therefore, must have got into the sewers by lifting a manhole cover, The entrails of animals referred to are found at the pumping station on the same day in each week. On one occasion some large pieces of stinking flesh, with bones, were discovered on the benching of a manhole between High Street and the Market Place; this could not possibly have got in such a position excepting through the manhole. Any person found doing this kind of thing should be severely punished.

Disinfection.—Your Council have appointed a Committee to enquire into the cost of a steam disinfecting station. This is much needed, as large articles, such as bedding, etc., cannot be efficiently disinfected, unless subjected to super-heated steam.

The ambulance has proved to be well adapted for the conveying of infectious patients to the hospitals and is highly spoken of by the patients themselves.

In conformity with the regulations of the Local Government Board I have made frequent inspections of the various parts of the district. Since November 9th, when the amalgamation of Poole with Branksome took place, the duties of the sanitary officers have increased, but we have now the assistance of an Assistant-Inspector. Reports of the work done with respect to drainage, workshops, bakehouses, slaughter-houses, dairies, Housing of the Working Classes Act, and the Sale of Food and Drugs Act, will be found in the report of Mr. Smith, Chief Inspector. I have to again acknowlege the very valuable assistance rendered me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Richard Smith, Jun., A.S.I.

In conclusion, I can congratulate your Council that the death-rate for 1905 is the lowest since 1901. The birth-rate is a little less than that of the last five years, the zymotic death-rate is below that of the small towns of England and Wales, and the infantile mortality is low.

The following particulars with respect to the work of the Sanitary Department during the past year are extracted from the report of the Sanitary Inspector, viz.:—

Drainage.—The house connections to the new system of sewerage have been completed during the year. There are now 4,200 houses provided with proper water closets and drainage which discharge into the sewer.

Workshops.—Two hundred and nineteen workshops are registered in the Borough, these have been inspected half-yearly and found generally to be kept in very fair condition; improved sanitary conveniences have been provided in ten cases.

Twenty-one notices have been sent to H.M. Inspector of Factories with regard to the occupiers failing to affix the abstract of the Act.

A systematic inspection of the Borough has been commenced with a view of completing the registration of all workplaces and measuring the workrooms.

Bakehouses.—Forty-one bakehouses are registered; these have been inspected half-yearly by the Medical Officer of Health and myself and found to be in good order, most of them are lime-washed regularly, but in some instances the failure to limewash at the stated time necessitated a special visit.

The tradesmen are requested to lime-wash the bakehouses in the months of March and September in each year.

Slaughter-houses.—There are 14 of these registered, they have been inspected half-yearly by the Medical Officer of Health and myself and found to be in fairly good order. One new slaughter-house has been erected this year and licenced by the Council.

Dairies and Cowsheds.—These also have been inspected half yearly by the Medical Officer of Health and myself. These are not all lime-washed at proper intervals, the Dairies and Cowsheds Order, 1885, reqires that the cowsheds should be done in the months of April and October; if this were carried out it would be a great convenience to your officers. It is hoped that by calling attention to this neglect the cowkeepers will endeavour to have the lime-washing done at the prescribed time.

In one case of a suspicious water supply it was thought necessary to submit a sample for analysis; this was done and reported to be a good water.

Twenty Dairies and Cowsheds are now registered.

Housing of the Working Classes Act.—In addition to the Improvement Scheme for demolition of 74 of the old dwellings in St. James' Parish, two properties have been reported to you as obstructive buildings; these are still under the consideration of the Council. One property is situated in Carter's Lane and the other in Blue Boar Lane off Strand Street.

Sale of Food and Drugs Act.—Eighty-seven samples of Food have been secured and submitted for analysis, viz.:—milk 65, butter 13, vinegar 2, jam 3, pepper 1, cocoa 2, coffee 1. Of these, three samples of milk were certified by the Public Analyst to be adulterated, and the vendors were prosecuted. One was convicted and fined, the other two were dismissed.

Disinfection.—In addition to disinfecting after cases of the notifiable diseases, premises occupied by persons suffering from phthisis are now disinfected on the application of occupier or medical attendant.

It has been the practice to call the attention of the owner or occupier of premises to any sanitary defects or nuisance found to exist, by written notice, and in most cases the defects have been remedied without formally reporting to the Sanitary Committee.

In addition to the foregoing, the Sanitary Work Return shows the number of visits of inspection and various works executed during the year.

Poole Port Sanitary Authority—Mr. G. H. Carrington.

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report as Port Medical Officer of Health for the year ending December 31st, 1905.

I have much pleasure in recording the fact that no case of infectious disease has been notified amongst the seamen. The seamen, both British and Foreign, have been healthy, and the majority of the ships have been in a good sanitary state.

Two deaths were registered as having occurred—male, 29 years, found drowned near Fish Shambles, but no evidence to show how deceased came in the water (inquest); male 27 years, found drowned in Poole Harbour (inquest).

The inspections of vessels by the Harbour Authorities, Board of Trade and Customs Officials have been made.

The number of the vessels inspected by the Sanitary Officials was 120, and were thus classed:—

Clean	92 English,	13 Foreign.
Fair	14 ,,	1 ,,

The matters complained of were rectified without written notice.

Portland—Mr. T. Howard.

Area.—The area of the district is 2,897 acres.

Population.—This was 15,262 at the census of 1901. I have estimated the population to the middle of 1905 to be 13,500. No doubt this number was much decreased before the end of the year, in consequence of the removal of the training ships and the termination of several large contracts.

Vital Statistics.—In order to facilitate comparison, I here give the different rates for England and Wales :—

Annual rates per 1,000 living.

	Births.	Deaths from all Causes.	Deaths from Seven Chief Epidemic Diseases.	Infant Mortality, Annual Death-rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births.
England and Wales	27·2	15·2	1·52	128
76 Great Towns	28·2	15·7	1·88	140
141 Smaller Towns	26·9	14·4	1·50	132
England and Wales, less the 217 Towns	26·3	14·9	1·09	113

Birth Rate, &c.—The births for the year are as follows :—

1905.	Boys.	Girls.	Total.
January	18	9	27
February	13	15	28
March	18	8	26
April	16	15	31
May	23	17	40
June	21	16	37
July	13	20	33
August	15	19	34
September	22	12	34
October	10	14	24
November	13	8	21
December	13	11	24
Totals	195	164	359

There were three illegitimate births during the year.

This represents a birth-rate of 26·59 per 1,000 inhabitants. The average rate for the past ten years is 22·9.

There was an increase of 62 as compared with 1904. I am pleased to state that this year we have had the largest number of births and the highest birth-rate in the past ten years, and this is more particularly a matter for congratulation when other parts of the country show a declining birth-rate.

Death Rate &c.—The deaths registered in 1905 were distributed as follows :—

January	12
February	27
March	10
April	15
May	13
June	7
July	9
August	13
September	9
October	11
November	14
December	26
Total	166

This represented an uncorrected death-rate of 12·29 per 1,000 inhabitants. From the whole number of deaths registered in the district during the year must be subtracted 13 deaths of patients in public institutions in the district who were non-residents, and to it must be added nine deaths of Portland people which occurred in public institutions outside the district. For information respecting these latter deaths I am indebted to Dr. Barclay, Medical Officer of Health, Weymouth.

The corrected death-rate for 1905 then becomes 12 per 1,000. The average rate for the past ten years is 11·7 per 1,000, and that for England and Wales, 1905, is 15·2 per 1,000.

Some of the deaths which are included in the returns and on which the death-rate is calculated do not belong to the district; yet it is not permissable to make deductions for these deaths. For examples—A Russian sailor accidently killed on board ship in the English Channel off Portland ; a fireman who died at sea, and whose body was conveyed to Portland ; a seaman belonging to the mercantile marine whose body was found near Castletown Pier, and four deaths resulting from accident on board H.M. ships whilst stationed in the Harbour.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

	Cases.
Measles	2
Whooping Cough	4
Scarlet Fever	1
Diphtheria	3
Croup	1
Epidemic Influenza	4
Enteritis	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Septic Diseases	4
Phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis)	10
Other Tubercular Diseases	2
Cancer, Malignant Disease	8
Bronchitis	8
Pneumonia	25
Alcoholism cirrhosis of liver	5
Premature Births	13
Diseases and accidents of parturition	1
Heart Diseases	16
Accidents	9
Suicides	3
Kidney Disease	2
Apoplexy	9
Acute Rheumatism	2
Old Age	6
All other causes	22
Total	162

The age distribution of the deaths was as follows :—

	Deaths.
Under 1 year	43
1 year and under 5 years	13
5 years ,, 15 ,,	6
15 ,, ,, 25 ,,	13
25 ,, ,, 65 ,,	57
65 years and upwards	30
Total	162

The Natural Increase of Population.— This means the excess of births over deaths, and amounts to 197 for 1905. In 1904 it was 162.

Average Age at Death.—The average age at death is 32 years for the whole district. In 1904 it was 33 years, whilst in 1903 it was 40 years. The difference is accounted for by the exceedingly low infantile mortality in 1903.

Zymotic Death Rate. This is calculated upon the seven principal zymotic diseases, viz., small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping cough, fever (typhus, enteric, and other continued). During the year 1905 there were 10 deaths, distributed as follows : Three to diphtheria, one to scarlet fêver, two to measles, and four to whooping cough. The Zymotic Death-rate was, therefore, 0·74 per 1,000 inhabitants. In 1904 it was 0·44 per 1,000. In England and Wales it was 1·52 for the year.

Infantile Mortality.—This means the number of children dying under the age of one year out of every thousand births registered during the year. There were 43 deaths of children under one year, which represents an infantile death-rate of 119·7 per 1,000 registered births. Considering the fact that we have had this year an exceptionally high birth-rate, this may be considered satisfactory, as we have a certain proportion of the population living at an age when mortality is high.

A classification of these deaths of infants in accordance with Table V. brings out some points of interest :—

Whooping Cough	2
Enteritis	1
Premature Births	13
Congenital Defects	2
Want of Breast Milk	1
Atrophy Debility Marasmus	6
Meningitis (not tuberculous)	1
Convulsions	1
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	10
Other causes	2
Total	43

Improper feeding and management accounts for a number of these deaths. Some mothers are unable to properly suckle their infants, but a large proportion are physically able to provide their infants with natural food, but through laziness, love of pleasure, or indifference, resort to hand-feeding. It has been my experience to find that instead of cows' milk, properly diluted and sweetened, as the one food most nearly approaching the natural food of the infant, that the child is fed upon some unwholesome and indigestible material. To make matters worse, the baby is given its food from a bottle with a long tube, which it is not possible to keep clean. However, with a long-tubed bottle the indifferent parent has no need to bother about regular feeding, as the bottle has only to be filled two or three times a day, and left in the baby's cot or perambulator, and the child is allowed to suck it until it either falls asleep or cries out with pain from indigestion. The clothing, too, is often unsuitable. When the child becomes querulous or ill the usual panacea is the abominable dumb teat. If this so-called comforter falls on the ground, and becomes covered with all sorts of filth, it gets a cursory wipe and is again pushed into the mouth of the child. (Sometime ago I visited a child in great pain, supposed to be suffering from diphtheria; on examiniation, I found an absess of the tongue, no doubt produced by this filthy dumb teat). One often hears the mother complain that the child does not thrive under these conditions; it is a surprise to me that so many children live. Some good results might be obtained by the issue of leaflets containing simple instructions on infant feeding.

In 1904, 18 deaths were ascribed to premature birth; 47 per cent. of the whole. This year the number ascribed to this cause is again high; 13, or 30 per cent. of the whole. This leads to the important question of the conditions operating before the birth of the child; the remedies are obvious, but not easy to carry into effect.

Prevalence of Disease, Notification.—The notifications were as follows :—

Diphtheria	9
Erysipelas	14
Scarlet Fever	6
Enteric Fever	5
Puerperal Fever	1
Total	35

The notification rate was, therefore, 2·5 per 1,000 inhabitants.

Small-pox.—Three notices were received from the Port Medical Officer at Southampton during the year that contacts with Small-pox were proceeding to their homes in Portland. Several were re-vaccinated, and all were kept under observation until they were proved to be free from infection.

Diphtheria.—During November and December, 1904, sore throat was prevalent in the Tophill district, and two cases of diphtheria were notified. At the end of January, 1905, sore throat was again prevalent, and one case of diphtheria was notified. On February 26th, I was again notified of a case of diphtheria, and on the 27th I visited the Easton Schools, where this child was a scholar, and found that five children from the same class were absent in consequence of sore throat. These children were traced to their homes, and two were found to be convalescent from sore throat. I noticed at the time of my visit that there were several children with nasal discharges, and these I advised the schoolmistress to exclude at once. The condition in which I found the Infant department of this school on my visit formed the subject of a special report to the Local Government Board, and for which I have been pretty freely criticised. I may here again briefly state the subject of that report. On entering the infant schoolroom I found that the atmosphere was most objectionable, and the cause of this was not far to seek. All the windows were closed, the open fire places had been stopped up, and the room was heated by gas stoves without flues, so that the unfortunate children were freely inhaling expired air, as well as the products of combustion of coal gas. If, as one bacteriologist has stated the bacillus of diphtheria is ubiquitous, then I know of no more successful means to propagate it than with a number of children at a susceptible age in a class room such as I have described. This state of affairs was at once reported by me to the Sanitary Committee, and I advised closure of this infant department, and the room to be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected. That this school was responsible for the spread of sore throat and diphtheria is clearly borne out by the facts: (1) When the schools were closed for the Christmas holidays, sore throat and diphtheria disappeared; (2) a few weeks after the schools re-opened sore throat and diphtheria again appeared; (3) during November and December, 1904, and January and February, 1905, all the cases of diphtheria, with one exception, and nearly all the cases of sore throat were scholars of this school; (4) that after disinfection and cleansing of this infant department, with free ventilation, the outbreak of sore throat and diphtheria came to an end. The cases of sore throat were proved to be not diphtheritic by several negative bacteriological examinations. In all, eight cases of diphtheria were notified and two deaths. I am pleased to state that the managers of this school have now erected a new infant department, and that as far as heating, light, and ventilation are concerned this will be second to none in the Island.

Typhoid or Enteric Fever.—Five cases were notified during the year. Two cases were notified in January. Both patients gave a history of having eaten a large quantity of watercress, supplied by the same hawker. This was the only article of food likely to cause the disease which both patients had in common. Before I obtained this information the man who supplied the watercress was accidentally killed at Weymouth, so I was unable to get definite information as to the locality from which the watercress came. However, there is very little doubt that watercress is cultivated under such conditions as to be liable at any time to become specifically polluted.

Three cases in October. On October 5th, I was notified of a case of typhoid in the Prison quarters, and on the 19th and 25th two cases were notified in the Underhill district. Both Underhill patients gave a history of having drunk copiously of water whilst at work, that they worked in the same gang, and had drunk their water from the same stand-pipe. On visiting the works where these men were employed, I found that the water they had drunk was known as Cheyne water, which comes from a shaft situated at Southwell. The water was used for cementing purposes, and the men were expressly forbidden to drink it, as it has been known for some time that this Cheyne water was sewage polluted; indeed, the Admiralty have for some years posted up notices stating that the water was not fit for drinking. In spite of these facts, the men having drunk the water for months (although sewage polluted) and no harm resulting, continued to do so with impunity. As to the specific pollution of the Cheyne water on this occasion, I found on enquiry that the washing from the infected house in the Prison quarters was done at Victoria Road a few days before definite typhoid symptoms appeared. The washing was done in the scullery of th ehouse, the refuse water going down the drain and into the Council's main sewer. It appears that where this sewer runs under the railway in Park Road a 9in. syphon had to be constructed. On various occasions this was found to be blocked, and in order to prevent the flooding of the low-lying yards at the back of the south side of Easton Square, an overflow pipe bad to be introduced which discharges into a quarry, from whence the sewage percolates down to the Portland sand and thence to the Cheyne spring. Another link in the chain of evidence was that this overflow actually occurred on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of October. As soon as I discovered that a gang of men in the dockyard (amongst whom were the two typhoid patients) were drinking this Cheyne water, I at once communicated with the Superintending Civil Engineer, who took prompt measures to prevent a recurrence of it, and no further cases were notified.

Scarlet Fever.—Six cases were notified during the year. One case was removed to the Infectious Hospital; all the others were isolated at their homes. Printed instructions were sent to each house as to the isolation and management of the patients, and I am pleased to state that in each case these instructions were followed. The death that occurred was that of a boy at the Royal Naval Hospital belonging to H.M.S. Boscawen.

Puerperal Fever.—One case, which terminated fatally. I found on enquiry that the nurse (who is not registered) had made several vaginal examinations before the medical man arrived, without even washing her hands. For what object she made these examinations I could not determine, as she was profoundly ignorant of the most elementary details concerning child-birth. I severely cautioned her as to the great danger to which she was exposing a parturient woman by these examinations, and advised her not to nurse any more cases for at least a month, and gave her instructions as to the disinfection of her hands and clothing.

Measles.—An epidemic of Measles of a mild type occurred amongst the pupils of St. John's and the Wesleyan School in the middle of June. It began in the infant department, but soon spread into the other departments of the school. Exclusion of children from infected homes was tried, but the disease continued to spread. At a meeting of the Wesleyan Managers it was decided to voluntarily close their school for 14 days from the 30th of June, so I recommended to the Council the advisability of closing St. John's for the same period.

In July, Measles appeared amongst the scholars of the Tophill School, no doubt conveyed from the Underhill district, and as the holidays were close at hand, I advised closure for seven days of St. George's, Easton, and Grove Schools. As the Sunday Schools were affected, a circular was sent to them pointing out the advisability of closing their schools for the same period, and this, I am pleased to state, was done. The number of deaths during the year was two, equal to a rate of 0·14 per 1,000.

Whooping Cough.—During November and December, an extensive outbreak of whooping cough occurred. It is particularly a disease of young children, and no doubt the spread of it is due to the aggregation of young children in schoolrooms for several hours a day. There were four deaths, representing a rate of 0·29 per 1,000. It is unfortunate that the public are disposed to make light of such diseases as measles and whooping cough, and even some people believe that the sooner their children get over such diseases the better, and for this reason take no precautions to prevent infection, and actually favour their children being attacked. Yet the deaths from these two diseases are higher than those from diphtheria, scarlet fever, and typhoid together.

Tubercular Diseases.—During the year there were 12 deaths registered as due to the various forms of tubercular disease. Of these 10 were due to phthisis (pulmonary tuberculosis) and two to other tubercular diseases. This gives us a death-rate of 0·74 per 1,000 for phthisis alone and 0·88 per 1,000 for all tubercular diseases, including phthisis. In 1904, the death-rate from phthisis was 0·66 per 1,000, and for all tubercular diseases, including phthisis, 0·88 per 1,000. In all cases where a death has been reported to me as occurring from phthisis, I have offered free disinfection, but in several cases it has been refused, and very few appear to readily accept it.

Pneumonia.—An extensive outbreak of pneumonia occurred at the beginning of the year. No doubt pneumonia is usually prevalent at this season of the year, probably owing to the sudden changes of temperature; but this after all can only be considered as a factor by lowering the resistance of the individual to infection, or cold may increase the activity of infection. I noticed in the Underhill district that groups of houses were attacked, and in many instances two and three cases occurred in one house. It is worthy of note that during February only 0·40 inches of rain was recorded, and this agrees with observations made on other epidemics. viz., that an epidemic is arrested by heavy rains and is most rapid in rainless periods. During the year there were 25 deaths, 12 of which occurred in February. In March, 4·43 inches of rain was recorded, and no deaths from pneumonia occurred. In 1904, only six deaths were registered from pneumonia.

The Schools.—I have visited the schools at various times during the year in connection with infectious diseases. I am pleased to state that in consequence of the pressure brought to bear by the Local Government Board and the Council, considerable improvements have taken place. Gas stoves without flues have been abandoned at the Easton School, and the fireplaces that have been "blocked up" have now been opened. It is deplorable that this unfortunate state of affairs should still continue to exist at the infant department of the Wesleyan School, Fortune's Well. New class rooms have been added to the Easton School, and the Wesleyan School, Fortune's Well, and at St. John's School the yard in front and behind the school has been recently asphalted—a much needed improvement.

The recommendations as to the lavatory accommodation and free use of the towels has been complied with by St. John's School, the Easton School, and the Wesleyan School, Fortune's Well. I regret to report that the Grove School and St. George's School have not yet complied with this recommendation. As some of the managers do not like the name of their school to be mentioned in my annual report in connection with sanitary defects, I now propose to deal with them by numbers:—

No. 1 Schoo:

(a) Window ledges and all projections within the school rooms thickly covered with dust.
(b) Two closet seats for 300 children, urinal and closets smelling most offensively, closets said to be flushed once in 24 hours.
(c) Windows open during playtime.

No. 2 School:

(a) Dust on window ledges and all projections within schoolrooms.
(b) Drain opening within cloakroom.
(c) Windows, ventilators and doors closed during playtime.

No. 3 School:

(a) Dust on window ledges and all projections within schoolroom.
(b) Windows and doors closed during playtime in infant department.

No. 4 School:

(a) Fairly clean.
(b) Drain opening within cloakroom.
(c) Windows closed in infant department during playtime.

No. 5 School:

(a) Dust on window ledges and all projections within schoolroom.
(b) Windows open during playtime.

The schools are only scrubbed and cleaned out from once to three times a year, so the large amount of dust, &c., within the schoolroom can be easily understood. If the standard of sufficiency and suitabality as to closet accommodation usual in factory and workshops was to be applied to schools, considerable alterations would have to be made. A drain opening (although trapped) within a cowshed or a bakehouse is illegal. Surely the same ought to be applied to schools. If the windows, ventilators and doors are closed during playtime, it may be taken for granted that they are not open during school hours. Slates are still used in all the schools. I think, from a sanitary point of view, these ought to be abandoned; but, if still retained, each child should have his own, and they should also be washed with disinfectants frequently. The great part schools play in the spread of such diseases as diphtheria, scarlet fever, measles and whooping cough, makes it imperative that schoolrooms should be well lighted, well ventilated, and object lessons given in cleanliness, and apart from these diseases it must be remembered that at school age the need for fresh air and plenty of it is probably greater than at any other time of life.

The infant department of the Easton Schools was closed in February in consequence of diphtheria, and all the schools in the district were closed in July on account of measles. It is highly desirable that in a future Code Section 101, which allowed absences due to infectious diseases to be counted as attendances, should be reinserted.

The Rainfall.—The following represents the rainfall of the north and south parts of the Island as taken at the Meteorological Station, High Lighthouse, and at the Admiralty Breakwater:—

	Meteorological Station. (Inches).	Admiralty Breakwater. (Inches).
January	1·01	1·23
February	0·55	0·40
March	4·70	4·43
April	1·13	1·38
May	0·39	0·58
June	2·02	2·34
July	0·64	0·69
August	2·11	2·56
September	2·31	2·72
October	1·61	1·38
November	4·30	5·09
December	0·64	1·07
Total amount of rainfall	21·41	23·87
Total wet days	170	132

At the Admiralty Breakwater no readings were taken on Sundays.

For these figures I am indebted to Mr. Batten, Meteorological Station, Portland High Lighthouse; and to G. P. Hayes, Esq., Superintending Civil Engineer, H.M. Breakwater, Portland.

Water Supply.—The water supply is obtained from the Lower Chalk. The well is situated in Gould's Bottom, near Upwey. As I stated in my last report, the well has failed to yield the quantity of water expected. The average daily consumption for 1905 was 302,706 gallons, and at the present time the yield from the well is 150,000 gallons per day. The reasons assigned for this failure are: (1) The total deficiency in the rainfall for a series of years has not yet been made up; (2) the continuous pumping at the Dorchester Water Works, which, by depleting the supply in the immediate vicinity for the last eight years, may have caused some of the water to flow towards that well rather than towards Upwey. The Council having these facts placed before them, decided to sink a new well, as it was thought, that though the deficiency in the rainfall may be made up in time, yet the pumping at Dorchester will always go on, and dry seasons are apt to return. Various difficulties have arisen in connection with a suitable situation for the new well, and now Captain Gould, the proprietor of the land, has intervened with a condition which will probably not meet with the approval of the Council. In the meantime, the Council, to make up for the deficiency in the water supply, have made use of a spring known as the Lower Well, situated about 100 yards from the famous Wishing Well. It is a surface well (not being more than 18 feet from the surface), and although it has been found from chemical and bacteriological examinations to be a water of excellent quality for drinking purposes, yet I consider it liable to contamination. The Council, I believe, are fully alive to their responsibility in this matter, yet I would again impress upon them the grave necessity there is for obtaining a new water supply with as little delay as possible. Subjoined is a recent analysis of the water from the Lower Well:—

The results obtained indicate that the mineral constituents are combined as follows:—

	Grains per gallon.
Sodium Chloride	3·300
Calcium Sulphate	2·574
Calcium Nitrate	1·259
Calcium Carbonate	15·839
Magnesium Carbonate	0·900
Silica and Ferric Oxide	Traces
Organic matter	Traces

To these data may be added the following:—

Total hardness		
	Calculated	19°.57
	Found (soap test)	16°.7
Temporary hardness		
	Calculated	16°.91
	Found (Hehner)	16°.10
Permanent hardness		
	Calculated	2°.66
	Found (soap test)	4°.2
Saline Ammonia		**Nil.**

	Grains per gall.
Yield of Albumonide Ammonia .	0·002
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27° C. ..	0 005
Nitrogen as Nitrates	0·21
Nitrates	Nil.
Lead and Copper	Nil.

This is a water of a high degree of organic purity. It is a good water for drinking and general use. The results of the bacteriological examination show that neither the Bacillus Coli Communis, nor Streptococci, can be found in quantities of water varying from 2 to 30 C.C. There is no evidence of sewage pollution, and from a bacteriological point of view the water is of good quality.

Sewerage and Drainage.—For drainage purposes the Island may be divided into four districts, having three separate outfalls :—

No 1 district includes practically the whole northern slope of the Island. The drainage from this area gravitates to the outfall in the West Bay, with the exception of two small districts, namely, Castletown (which has considerably increased during the past two years, owing to large Naval buildings, Hospitals, etc.) and a portion of Chesiltown ; and here Adams' patent sewage lifts are employed to raise the sewage. The air for working the Chesil lift is compressed by the action of the high level sewage. As no high level sewage is available at Castletown, the power for air compressing is obtained from water supplied by the Council's mains.

No. 2 district includes the Grove and Easton.

No. 3 district includes the village of Weston. The sewage from Nos. 2 and 3 districts is discharged by the same outfall into the East Bay below Church Hope Cove, and is simply by gravitation.

No. 4 district includes the village of Southwell. This work is now in hand, and it is to be hoped that before the presentation of my next report the work will be completed.

The Sewerage system has worked well during the year, and there has been no serious flooding, except at Castletown, where the lift is still overpowered with sewage. In the early part of September the sewage was pumped out of the chamber, and new valves fitted to the forcing cylinder, but although the resulting improvement was marked, the lift is still unable to deal with the increasing volume of sewage. In consequence of this the sewage is backed up the sewer almost to road level, and the branch drains and manholes are choked. As an Infectious Hospital drains into this lift, it can be understood how serious and dangerous to the public health this matter may become. The only way to remedy this unsatisfactory state of affairs is either to duplicate the lift or to pump the sewage. For many reasons the Council, acting on the advice of their Surveyor, have decided to erect a pumping station if a suitable site could be obtained. I think if the Admiralty, who are bound eventually to become equal sufferers with ourselves, were approached, and this grave condition of things existing at present pointed out to them, that they would at once grant a suitable site for pumping the sewage.

New Sewers.—Two new sewers have been laid during the year, one at the south side of Easton Square, the other at the east side of Easton Street. Both were very difficult pieces of work, the sewer at the top of Easton Street having to be laid for a considerable distance through eight feet of rock, necessitating a large amount of blasting with ammonite. At the south side of Easton Street the back yards were very low, and it was exceedingly difficult to get a sufficient fall for the sewer. At one part it was only possible to get a fall one in 129 for a 6in. main. These difficulties were very creditably surmounted by the Surveyor, who took every precaution in laying the pipes, and then fixed one of Adams' automatic syphons, with a 250 gallon tank, discharging as often as found necessary at the highest point of the sewer.

Flushing of Sewers.—This is accomplished by means of hydrants fixed near the head of the sewers, which are usually flushed once a month.

Public Conveniences.—During the year a much needed improvement has been carried out by the opening of a public convenience for ladies in the Victoria Gardens. This was very necessary, and it is to be hoped that the Council will soon be in a position to deal further with this important matter. That there is a great need for such conveniences in both the Tophill and Underhill districts is very evident from the state of the streets the first thing in the morning. I have heard many complaints as to the state of the footpaths, particularly on Sunday mornings.

Removal and Disposal of House Refuse.—The Council adopt a weekly system of collection of house refuse and also undertake the removal of night soil from the unsewered portion of the district. This branch of work has been very satisfactorily performed during the year. Much improvement is noticeable by householders making use of properly-covered ash bins instead of the miscellaneous collection of receptacles usually employed.

The refuse when collected is tipped into a quarry at Wide Street, about 250 yards from the highway. Many complaints have been received during the year as to the unpleasant smells, and I have also heard of offensive matter being blown from the tip into a factory which is in proximity. In any case, no large collection of refuse can be other than a nuisance to those who find themselves near it. I would again urge on the Council, as I have in previous reports, the necessity there is for a refuse destructor.

Isolation Hospital.—At present we have no Isolation Hospital of our own, but by an arrangement with the Weymouth Port Sanitary Hospital, at Wyke, our infectious cases are received there if sufficient accommodation is available. Should this Hospital be occupied by patients from the ships suffering from plague, cholera, yellow fever, or small pox, we should have no place to isolate our infectious cases. This matter deserves the Council's most earnest attention.

Means of Disinfection.—Disinfection has been carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector. The agent used has been Formic Aldehyde gas, evolved by a special lamp. In every case the floors, walls and furniture have been washed with "Sanitas" solution. The clothing, bedding, &c., have been sprayed with Formalin vapour. We have as yet no disinfecting apparatus for the treatment of infected bedding and clothing. I would again urge on the Council, as I have in previous reports, the necessity there is for a steam disinfector.

Housing of the Working Classes.—There is a marked improvement in this respect, especially in the Tophill district, and as the demand for houses having a rental of about 5/- a week continues, more houses of this character are being erected. Very few of the houses that have been built in the Underhill district within the past seven years are at a less rental than at 7/6 per week. To a man earning from 20 to 25 shillings per week this rent is simply prohibitive, and in consequence the tenant has to sub-let to one or more families, and sometimes lodgers are added, and this undoubtedly leads to habitual overcrowding. As an example of this class of house, I may mention Hambro Road which consists of 26 houses. These contain six rooms each, and were originally intended for single families, so that the scullery and the single closet in the back yard must now be used by all the occupiers in common, and as a result privacy and separate family life are impossibilities. The water closets in this street have to be hand flushed, and in consequence the pans become dirty and foul. In Albert Terrace there is the same class of house. Three of the houses have not the water laid on, so that it is very unlikely that the closets will be kept properly flushed, if the occupiers have to go to a standpipe in the street for the water necessary for flushing. Fortunately the drains do not often get blocked, as there is plenty of fall. In the Underhill district there are 22 houses without water laid on, and 403 without flushing cisterns. In the Tophill district there are nine houses without water laid on, and 70 without flushing cisterns. (The figures for the Tophill district do not include the Grove, Avalanche Road, and Southwell). It is to be hoped that during the coming year much will be done to remedy these conditions.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.—There are now 28 cowkeepers and dairymen on the Council's register. The cowsheds are regularly inspected, and much has been done during the year to raise the standard of them. A few of the cowsheds leave nothing to be desired as far as structure and suitability. In two cowsheds extensive improvements have been carried out; new floors were laid with impervious material and properly drained. In six cases limewashing and cleansing were required. In two instances the surroundings are so bad that it is almost an impossibility to keep the cows clean, and this is more particularly the case in wet weather; and in two cases the sheds are in a most dilapidated condition, and are altogether unsuitable. Unfortunately at the present time we are without regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops Order. New regulations have been drawn up and approved by the Committee, and presented to the Council. This matter is most urgent, and I hope no further delays will occur in adopting the regulations and submitting them to the Local Government Board. There is nothing in these regulations which an ordinary intelligent man ought not to do for himself, and if he will not do it, then he should be compelled to do so. A part of the milk sold in the Island comes from outside districts where milk is produced, I understand, under far worse conditions. In this matter the cowkeeper has my entire sympathy, and I think the consumer ought to carefully differentiate and even pay a higher price for milk produced under wholesome conditions.

To supply the consumer with pure milk is the object we wish to obtain, and to do this a well constructed cowshed is simply an aid. Cleanliness of cows, milkers, and milking utensils is just as necessary. The average cowkeeper does not believe in washing the cows' teats, as he believes his cows would "catch cold," yet he will allow them to lie in liquid manure or wet pasturage, and never dream of ill-effects. Such a thing as washing his hands between each milking is a proposal that could only be evolved from the mind of a "crank." Free ventilation he has a deep-rooted objection to, as it means less milk and all these regulations for trying to secure pure milk are looked upon as something of a "doctor's fad." I have purposely visited the cowsheds at milking time in company with the Sanitary Inspector, and here are some of samples of what we found In one instance the manure had not been removed from the shed for weeks. On pointing this out to the cowkeeper he informed me that this manure meant warmth to the cow, and consequently more milk. In another case I found the hands of the milkers covered with liquid manure, and this was oozing between the fingers. The milkers stated that they had washed their hands before coming to the shed. This seemed scarcely creditable until I examined the cows, the teats and udders of which were covered with dung. In the milking utensils were particles of dung, dirt and straw floating about in the milk. In another case I found a milker with his hands in a filthy state. The cows' teats also were dirty (these were stated to have been washed, yet there was no means provided for doing so either within or in proximity to the shed) The drain was also blocked, and to this I called the attention of the milker, who removed the dung with his hands, and before I could realize what he was about to do, returned to his milking. It is to be hoped that the consumer will soon realize the dangers that lurk in his milk jug, and make the cowkeeper effectively understand that his methods of fifty years ago are not the methods of to-day.

Milkshops.—I have visited the shops where milk is sold. Only a small quantity of milk is kept to oblige customers. The milk is sold in some instances along with paraffin oil, groceries, candles and fried fish, and is kept in an open tin on the counter, where it becomes contaminated with dust, dirt, and flies, and may receive infectious material from customers. The Council are now considering regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, and I have suggested a regulation which has been adopted in other places, and approved by the Local Government Board, to the effect that "Every retail purveyor of milk shall cause every vessel containing milk to be protected from dust, dirt, flies, and other sources of contamination by means of suitable covers," and this would be of much advantage.

Slaughter-houses.—There are only two slaughter-houses in the district. Both have been visited regularly during the year. Neither of them come up to the most moderate standard of modern requirements.

Fried Fish Shops.—These are five in number, and have been inspected at intervals during the year. In one case the ventilation was found to be insufficient, and in another the premises and utensils were found to be in a dirty state. In both cases the defects were at once remedied on the owner's attention being called to them.

Common Lodging-Houses.—There are no common lodging-houses within the district.

Licensed Premises.—These are 42 in number, and have been inspected periodically during the year. With one exception they are all in a very good sanitary condition, and where any sanitary defect has been discovered it has been at once remedied by the owners.

Offensive Trades.—No offensive trades as defined legally are carried on within the district.

Unsound Food.—I have not been called upon to condemn any article of unsound food during the year, nor has there been any complaints in relation to such.

Ice Cream Shops.—Several ice cream shops have been opened during the summer. All the premises are in a good sanitary condition. In two cases improvements in cleanliness were required.

Nuisances.—These were dealt with generally by the Sanitary Inspector, and when necessary my advice was sought.

Factory and Workshop Act.—The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, makes the Council responsible for the regular supervision of all workshops and workplaces in the district. There are at present 62 workshops on the register, comprising :—

Dressmakers	12
Bakehouses	16
General Builders' and Carpenters' Workshops ..	5
Shoemakers	4
Blacksmits and Farriers	8
Lime Burners	2
Plumber and Painters	7
Hairdressers	6
Boatbuilder	1
Monumental Mason	1
Total	**62**

During the year 102 inspections were made. In one dress-making establishment over-crowding was discovered. It was found that the Factory Inspector had warned this same place two years ago. The matter was reported to the Council, who decided that the occupier should be once more cautioned, and if found again offending, legal proceedings are to be taken. I have usually found these dressmaking establishments close and stuffy, and no efficient ventilation is provided, from the habit of the workers closing up all openings.

Factories.—In some of the larger factories the provision of sanitary accommodation is still insufficient, and that is a matter which will soon require further attention, but as a rule the occupiers have shown themselves willing to carry out any suggested improvements in this direction.

The bakehouses have been regularly visited during the year. Minor defects were discovered in several instances, but all were satisfactorily remedied on the owners' attention being called to them. One or two bakehouses have to be sharply watched on account of uncleanliness. One underground bakehouse was closed at the beginning of the year.

In conformity with the directions of the Local Government Board, I have made systematic inspections of the various parts of the district, and have made myself acquainted as far as possible with the conditions affecting the public health in the Island.

I have again to acknowledge the very valuable assistance rendered to me by the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. G. H. Smith, who continues to perform the duties of his office with tact, thoroughness and courtesy.

Shaftesbury.—Mr. J. Duncan Walker.

Area of District.—100 acres.

Population (1901 census).—2027.

Births.—The number of births in the Urban District was 34. This gives a birth-rate of 15·34 per 1,000 of the population. The numbers for the preceding ten years were :—

1904	..	35	1899	..	45
1903	..	36	1898	..	53
1902	..	53	1897	..	41
1901	..	42	1896	..	56
1900	..	37	1895	..	49

Deaths.—The total number of deaths occurring in the Urban District was 26, a decrease of 1 on the previous year, which is again the lowest for over ten years.

This gives a death-rate of 11·73 per 1,000 of the population, the average for the past ten years being 16·18. Of these deaths four occurred in the Cottage Hospital, all of which were persons not belonging to the Urban District.

1904	..	27	1899	..	29
1903	..	28	1898	..	38
1902	..	41	1897	..	37
1901	..	41	1896	..	30
1900	..	31	1895	..	25

The deaths registered for the various months of 1905 were :—

January	..	2	July	..	1
February	..	0	August	..	3
March	..	2	September	..	2
April	..	1	October	..	2
May	..	5	November	..	1
June	..	4	December	..	3

The chief causes of these deaths were as follows :—

Enteritis	..	1
Cancer	..	5
Bronchitis	..	7
Heart Diseases	..	2
Senile Decay	.	4
Brain Diseases	..	3
Appendicitis	..	1
Nephritis	..	1
Other Causes	..	2
		26

The age distribution of these deaths was as follows :—

Under 1 year of age	..	..	..	..	3
1 year and under 5 years	..	..	..	..	0
15 years and under 25 years	..	..	..	..	2
25 years and under 65 years	..	..	..	..	6
65 years and upwards	..	..	..	..	15

The average age at death (excluding the three infants under 1 year) is 66·08.

Zymotic Diseases.—These have been again exceeding low during the year, only 6 cases having occurred, namely :—

Erysipelas	..	..	..	..	...	1
Scarlet Fever	..	..	..	..	..	2
Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	3

In neither of these cases did death occur.

Water Supply.—The water supply for the town has been constant and excellent in quality throughout the year. It is obtained from wells and stored in a reservoir on Little Down, above the town.

Drainage.—On the irrigation system, and is carried to a farm about half a mile from the town, and has been working satisfactorily throughout the year. A few cesspools still exist, especially in St. James. A number of nuisances have been attended to and abated during the year. The streets have been well cleaned throughout the year by the Corporation scavenger.

Schools, etc.—The National schools, lodging-house on Gold Hill and workshops in the town have been visited from time to time throughout the year and were all found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Bakehouses and Slaughter-houses.—The underground bakehouse on the Commons has been for some time before the Corporation and they have decided to grant a licence on condition the Act is complied with as regards light, etc. The work is now in hand and will be completed at an early date.

Infantile Mortality (that is, children dying under 1 year) has been 3.

The low death-rate and the very small number of notifications of infectious diseases throughout the year, and without a single death from consumption or any tubercular diseases, says much for the general health of the Urban District.

Sherborne—Mr. Horace Nutt.

Again I have the honour of presenting you with my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Urban District of Sherborne, especially dealing with sanitary matters, and on this occasion for the year 1905, which I believe the statistics given in this Report will prove has a right to be considered a healthy one, on the grounds of the public health; as, with the exception of one disease which has been more or less prevalent, in a mild form, as an epidemic throughout the country generally, and to which I shall refer later on in this Report. This district may be considered to have been exceptionally free from infectious diseases or illness of any kind materially affecting the surroundings of the district.

The physical features and general conditions of the district remain much the same. The chief occupations of the inhabitants are agriculture, the gloving trade, the silk factory—combining the art of weaving and throwsting, milk factories and dairies.

The district may now be considered an educational centre, as there are schools for all classes—public and elementary, and recently there has been added a Centre for pupil teachers' instruction. Also a public school for the higher education of girls, now termed "The Sherborne Ladies' College," situated on the highest and healthiest part of the town; outside, but just within the confines of the Urban District, with commodious and sanitary buildings, to which recently has been added a good-sized gymnasium, fully equipped with modern appliances for the development of muscular power and energy, affording recreation and exercise of a healthy kind.

I am not aware of any occupation or trade carried on in the district which can be considered of an offensive character, especially in any way likely to affect the health of the workers.

The population of the district is gradually increasing; according to the census of 1901, it was given as 5,263 at all ages. It is now estimated to the middle of 1905 as 6,019, and it is upon this basis I have calculated the statistics.

The Acreage is about 561 acres. Number of inhabited houses, 1192. The average number of persons per house, 4·40. The boundary of the district was extended in 1894.

I will now proceed to give the general statistics, which I shall endeavour to do for the most part in a tabular form, in the text of this Report, at the same time the special tables in accordance with the instructions of the Local Government Board will be supplemental.

Mortality.—

	Males	Females.	Total.
1st quarter	11	22	33
2nd ,,	11	11	22
3rd ,,	7	8	15
4th ,,	11	15	26
Total	40	56	96

Deaths occurring in Institutions.—

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
Yeatman Hospital	1	4	0	3	8
St. John's Alms House	0	0	1	1	2
Union Workhouse	7	5	1	1	14
	8	9	2	5	24
Deaths of persons not belonging to the district	4	5	0	1	10

Annual general death-rate, 15·94; actual death-rate, 14·28 per 1,000 of the population.

Ages at which death occurred :—

	Under 1 year.	1 & under 5	5 & under 15	15 & under 25	25 & under 65	65 and upwards	Total.
1st quarter	5	0	1	0	9	18	33
2nd quarter	2	2	0	1	9	8	22
3rd quarter	0	1	0	0	7	7	15
4th quarter	2	5	0	3	4	12	26
	9	8	1	4	29	45	96

Deaths of persons of 80 years and upwards : –

1st quarter	..	5
2nd ,,	..	2
3rd ,,	..	4
4th ,,	..	1
		12

The oldest was 89 years.

The average age at which death occurred was 50·48 years.

Zymotic Mortality.—There was one death due to diphtheria during the last quarter of the year, and this was the only one in this class of disease.

There were no deaths due to influenza, typhoid, scarlet fever, diarrhœa, whooping cough, or measles throughout the year. nor were there any due to accident or suicide.

Infantile Motality.—There were nine children died under 1 year of age. I am pleased to say this is a much less rate than that of last year, when it was considered to be somewhat high.

Cause of death :—

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
Bronchitis & Pneumonia	8	5	2	10	25
Phthisis ..	3	3	4	1	11
Cerebral ..	3	3	3	3	12
Heart Disease ..	6	2	1	2	11
Influenza ..	0	0	0	0	0
Cancer ..	4	2	2	2	10
Diphtheria ..	0	0	0	1	1
Typhoid ..		Nil.			
Diarrhœa ..		Nil.			
Scarlet Fever ..		Nil.			
Measles ..		Nil.			
Whooping Cough ..		Nil.			
Accident ..		Nil.			
Suicide ..		Nil.			
Old age and general causes	9	7	3	7	26
	33	22	15	26	96

Three deaths resulted soon after operation.

Births.—

	1st qr.	2nd qr.	3rd qr.	4th qr.	Total.
Males ..	15	22	16	11	64
Females ..	10	20	14	8	52
	25	42	30	19	116

Birth-rate, 19·27 per 1,000 of the population.

The Prevalence of Disease.—The Notification of Infectious Diseases Act was adopted by the Sherborne Sanitary Authority in the year 1890, and embraces the following diseases, viz. :—smallpox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus, enteric, relapsing and continued fever, puerpural fever, measles and whooping cough. To this list I think it would be well to add epidemic influenza, cancer and consumption, as there is now much more attention paid to the prevention of the infection of these diseases spreading. I feel it would be well if the Medical Officer of Health was informed of such cases before he sees the deaths returned in the Quarterly Report. It will be noted that deaths from cancer and consumption appear to be on the increase in the district. During the past year when I have been informed of deaths occurring from these diseases I have had the rooms disinfected by a powerful germicide and antiseptic, and in every case this effort was appreciated.

I would like to take this opportunity of again stating that the Act requires notification of infectious diseases—by the parent or occupier of the house as well as the medical attendant, and this is especially important in the case of schools and public institutions ; owing to neglect of this requirement I have had to write many letters during the year, which I hope may now be avoided.

I have, during the year, received 181 notifications. Fifty of these were measles, 126 scarlet fever, 2 whooping cough, 2 of erysipelas (mild form), 1 of diphtheria. It is somewhat remarkable that there were only two cases of whooping cough, as it is too well known that when this disease starts it is too apt to spread with activity.

The cases of measles were generally of a very mild type and there was not a single death from this cause.

Scarlet Fever.—I received 126 notifications of this disease during the year, 3 were during the first Quarter, 10 in the second Quarter, 39 in the third Quarter and 74 in the fourth Quarter. Although the epidemic was generally of a mild type, and did not result in a single death, throughout the year, nevertheless it was found very troublesome and lasting, and the infection most difficult to deal with on account of the very mildness of its character and the ambiguous and insidious manner of its attack. It is not sufficiently known that the infection of this disease is more powerful in the convalescent stage than the acute. One case may be so mild as scarcely to be recognised as fever, yet the infective person may be the means of starting another case of a most severe and fatal type.

I have taken copious notes from my observations of the vagaries and peculiarities, during this mild epidemic, as to the manner of its spreading infection, which will be beyond the limits of this Report, but, nevertheless, are very interesting, in dealing with a disease, the cloven hoof of which may be disguised, that is too often known by its severity, fatality, and disastrous consequences. I have reason to believe that at the beginning the infection was conveyed from outside the district, neighbouring parishes, where the disease in a mild form had been prevalent for some time previously to its appearance within the district. It was brought to my notice that in some of the parishes the greatest carelessness was manifested in the treatment, as to isolation and the prevention of spreading the infection. In some cases children were known to be attending school in the "peeling" stage, and even children who had absented themselves on account of sickness were forced into attendance by the master, afterwards developed scarlet fever, and I know of one case where children were kept home from School on account of the disease. The schoolmaster went to the house, demanding the children to attend school anyhow, and was only satisfied when told that the children were under medical treatment, so ardent was the teacher to get his pupils in for the examination. I felt it my duty to communicate with the M.O.H. of that district and he protested to the authorities and in a few days I heard the said school was closed. I can testify that in this district the schools were strong factors in spreading the infection. In many cases, on account of the ignorance of the parents, my attention was frequently called to cases of children who were sent home from school in a peeling condition, which I at once caused to be isolated and every precaution taken. Upon these grounds I felt it my duty to advise your Council to close the elementary schools, and this was done on the 26th of September for one month, at the termination of which the order was extended for another fortnight. I now feel it would have been better if they had been closed for a longer period. I visited every house for which I received a notification throughout the epidemic. At the proper period disinfection and thorough cleansing was carried out. The bedding affected, clothes and other articles requiring it were removed to the isolation hospital for disinfection by the patent disinfector which your Council has acquired.

The Isolation Hospital.--This is in much the same condition as last year when it was opened, very inadequate and insufficient. There is only really proper accommodation for about six cases, and these must be of one sex and one disease. One ward is required for the nursing staff, which should be for infectious cases, and other rooms supplied for the nurses and offices, and a ward for doubtful or testing cases on admission.

Imperfect as it is, it has been very useful during the epidemic ; 25 cases have been treated there and all have made a good recovery. In many cases it appears to have been the means of arresting the progress of the disease, and, by isolating cases from the cottages, have enabled the "bread-winners" and others to go to their work and avocations without loss and hindrance, which would otherwise have been caused by the presence of this disease.

Diphtheria.—I was not able to trace the origin of the infection in this case. As soon as I was aware of the death I made an inspection of the premises, had the body immediately removed to the mortuary at the cemetery, the house and other things thoroughly disinfected, the drains inspected and tested ; nothing wrong was discovered. A heap of decomposed vegetable matter which was offensive I had immediately removed and burned. No other case occurred.

Nuisances—Gasworks.—In March I received a complaint of a nuisance caused by an unpleasant and very strong effluvia from the Gas-works. I visited the works and saw the manager. No doubt there was cause for complaint. It was caused by the cleaning out of the "purifier," and due chiefly to sulphurous exhalations —at times very powerful and objectionable to passers-by on the public road. It appeared to be due to the contents of the "purifier" at times being spread out to recharge—put out in beds—practically a process of re-oxidation. At times, owing to the wind, it is more objectionable than others. I explained the object of my visit to the manager ; he said he would do all he could in future to prevent its being a nuisance.

The Factories and Workshops.—These have been periodically inspected and found to be generally in a satisfactory condition. White-washing and cleansing have been attended to, and the Act appears to be thoroughly complied with. I have not had any complaint of sanitation or overcrowding.

The schedule I have epitomized from the Sanitary Inspector's annual report will show more details of the work done under the Factory and Workshops Act.

Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds.—These have been inspected regularly throughout the year and are much improved and in a satisfactory condition.

Slaughter Houses.—There are only three within the district ; these are regularly inspected and are now kept in an improved condition. Whitewashing and cleansing are thoroughly attended to, the water and drainage system being complete. As it is known I have an objection to these places being within the District, the owners are very attentive to my requirements, and as far as they can be, I feel the Sanitation is perfect.

Fried Fish Shops.—There are now two of these within the district ; they are quite an innovation. They are well kept but my attention was called to one by the Sanitary Inspector, who had received a complaint as to the effluvia pervading the road arising therefrom. On my visit I could not find any ground for such complaint, they were supplied with a modern stove, with improvements for the frying of the fish to prevent any nuisance arising during the process, but as the place seemed somewhat small I suggested more ventilation should be acquired by carrying a sufficient pipe through the roof of the building, which I think would remedy any defect. I have not heard of any complaint since.

Bakehouses.—These are regularly visited by the inspector and, at frequent intervals, by myself. There is great and marked improvement as to cleanliness and the way they are kept. Several are supplied with modern equipment for steam baking. Constant attention is paid to frequent cleansing and lime-washing of the walls, &c. of these places.

There are no underground bakehouses in the district now.

Common Lodging-house.—This is conspicuous by its absence in the district—for some reasons I feel one is required.

Housing Accommodation for the Working Classes.—Evidently there has been great improvement in this respect the last few years, and overcrowding is a thing of the past, but I am not aware that anything has been done during the past year. More cottages are required that could be let at a less rental than is now demanded.

Improvements, &c.—During the year I have had about 17 plans placed before me, principally new buildings and alterations. The houses have been chiefly of the villa class and the alterations have been the addition of bathrooms, w.c.'s, etc., to existing buildings—all in the line of improvement from a sanitary point of view. One or two new streets have been opened to which new sewers have been extended, namely, a part of Cold Harbour, Wootton Grove, and King's Road, off the Bristol Road to Cold Harbour, and now more ground is available for building purposes in the highest and most bracing part of the district. The effluvia of the sewage is now purified by precipitation and treated by the "Ferozone" process, rendering it quite clean and inodorous before it empties into the river.

Scavenging.—Great improvement in the scavenging and flushing of the drains which is regularly done. The dust-carts are now supplied with proper covers, which I much approve.

The refuse matter is destroyed by burning. There is no proper destructor within the district.

Water Supply.—This continues abundant and is of excellent quality for both potable and domestic purposes. The only improvement I feel desirable, and that on the ground of appearance, would be the Ærated Filtration Process, but, as it is, I consider the water is quite sound and wholesome, and there can be no objection on the ground of healthiness. It is somewhat hard, but this is easily got rid of by boiling. I do not consider it objectionable, all things considered. There are two reservoirs which are thoroughly cleaned out thrice a year, and there is a continuous supply of good water, day and night, throughout the year. Although a very dry summer, combined with extravagant waste may cause a visible reduction, nevertheless I have never known it exhausted.

I wish to express my appreciation of the capable assistance I have received from the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Brown, during the year, and the table I have drawn out from his report of sanitary work, and which, with other tables will accompany this report, will show that he has not been standing still.

Swanage.—Dr. A. McCausland.

Area.—2,659 Acres.

Population.—The population last census (1901) was 3380, with 734 inhabited houses, estimated population 1905 is 3900, with 1057 inhabited houses.

Births.—There were 73 births during the year, making a birth-rate of 18·9 per 1,000, against a rate last year of 23·4 per 1,000.

Deaths.—There were 44 deaths during the year, making a death-rate of 11·2 per 1,000.

Zymotic Death-rate.—There was one death due to Measles, making a death-rate of ·02 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.—Six children died during the year under one year of age, making a death-rate of 82·1 per 1,000 births registered.

Prevalence of Disease.—We had no epidemic during the year with the exception of an outbreak of measles in the early winter, when the County Council School at Swanage was closed for five weeks.

Water Supply.—This is of excellent quality, having been twice tested during the year by the County Analyst. The quantity also was sufficient. A new reservoir has been built to store water in case of exceptional drought.

Sewerage.—There is a complete system of sewerage which works well.

Isolation Hospital.—The nearest Isolation Hospital is near Corfe Castle and belongs to the Wareham District Council.

Disinfecting Apparatus.—We have no regular disinfecting apparatus.

Slaughter-houses.—There are two slaughter-houses on the outskirts of the town.

Bakehouses and Dairies.—These are regularly inspected and are in a satisfactory condition.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are none in the District.

Factories and Workshops.—There are 41 workshops on a small scale, there have been no complaints concerning these during the year.

General Remarks.—The year has been a fairly healthy one, we have had only six notifications of infectious diseases, two of these being erysipelas. We have had eight deaths from phthisis due in part to many consumptives coming to Swanage for their health. Sixteen of the deaths were persons over 65 years of age. Although we had an epidemic of measles amongst the children there was only one death attributed to it. We had only one case of enteric fever notified, which speaks well for the water supply and drainage of the town.

I append list of work done by Mr. Senior, Sanitary Inspector, and myself during the year.

Wareham.—Mr. K. J. Courtenay.

Area.—The district comprises 251 acres.

Population.—The population, which according to the census of 1901 was 2,003, is estimated to the middle of 1905 at 2,000.

Births.—There were 42 births in the year, a birth-rate of 21 per 1,000.

Deaths.—Including the Workhouse there have been 38 deaths, 10 of which were non residents, giving a death-rate of 14 per 1,000. The average age at death, including the Workhouse, was 58·3 years.

Of these deaths there occurred 12 from Heart Disease, 4 from Cancer, 3 from Phthisis, 2 from Enteritis, 1 from accident, 1 from Bronchitis, 1 from Pneumonia, 1 from Diphtheria. The rest were due to general causes. Heart Disease is on the increase in the town and is unmistakably due to the bad water supply, the percentage of solids being considerable.

Infant Mortality.—There were 4 deaths, giving a rate of 95·2 per 1000 births registered.

Zymotic Disease.—One death occurred under this heading.

Infectious Disease.—I have received 7 certificates under the Notification of Diseases Act, viz., 1 from Diphtheria, 3 from Scarlet Fever, 2 from Erysipelas, 1 from Enteric.

The Scarlet Fever was contracted in the surrounding district. The case of Enteric was probably due to contaminated water and that of Diphtheria, which proved fatal, to faulty drainage.

Water Supply.—Although the pipes are laid into the town there is yet no supply, as the well is giving a great amount of trouble and is now in the hands of the engineer. I fear it will be some time before the water is laid on, but everything should be done to expedite this as the present supply is so unsatisfactory.

Sewage and Drainage.—There is no regular system of drainage, but every opportunity is taken to improve matters by substituting Earth Closets for Vault Privies. I must repeat what I said last year that in private houses more attention should be paid to the regular emptying of cesspools, as the overflow runs into the main gutters and the resulting stench is sufficient to cause disease.

Slaughter, Bake and Lodging-houses are all in a fairly satisfactory state.

General.—I have made a systematic inspection of the Borough and paid special visits when need has arisen. I have had several alterations made in the workshops, which are now all that can be desired. Several nuisances have been abated and the health of the town at the end of the year was most satisfactory.

Weymouth and Melcome Regis—Mr. W. B. Barclay.

In accordance with my statutory duty I beg to present my annual report on the health and sanitary conditions of your district.

As my period of office commenced early in August, I have, as a matter of convenience, incorporated, under each of the various headings, my predecessor's report for the six months ending June 30th, excepting the statistical tables and remarks made upon these, and the administration of the Factory and Workshops Act.

The memorandum of the Local Goverment Board, conveying hints as to the scope of such report, mention among other items "the physical features and general character of the district," and I have endeavoured to summarise these at the beginning of the report, as far as my short acquaintance with them will allow me.

I have to thank the Town Council generally and the Sanitary Committee in particular for their kindness and support during my period of office, and to the officials of the Council for their ready assistance at all times.

Area of the Borough in statute acres, 1,299.

Population (census 1901).—19,843; estimated middle of June, 20,788.

Number of Inhabited Houses (Census 1901).—3,881.

Average number of persons per house.—5·1.

Density of Population.—Persons per acre, 16.

Uncorrected Death-rate.—16·1.

Comparative Death Rates:—

	Borough	England and Wales 1905	76 large towns	141 smaller towns	E. & W. less 217towns
Birth-rate ..	26·3	27·2	28·2	26·9	26·3
Corrected Death-rate ..	15·2	15·2	15·7	14·4	14·9
Infantile Mortality ..	100·3	128	140	132	113
Zymotic Death-rate ..	0·67	1·52	1·88	1·50	1·09
Phthisis Death-rate ..	1·4	—	—	—	—

The Borough.—The borough is divided into two distinct parts, by a prolongation of the harbour, west and north, termed the Backwater, the waters of which are tidal, and are separated from the harbour and held back at ebb-tide by a masonry dam, with a lock-gate. At irregular periods the lock gate is opened, allowing the water to drain out during low tide, with the exception of a channel receiving and conveying the waters of the river Wey, which enters the Backwater at its northern end. The river Wey receives the drainage of parts of the Weymouth Rural District—the villages of Radipole Nottington, Broadwey and Upwey. The Backwater is thus an inland lake, the waters of which are changed twice daily by the tidal flow. The Corporation maintain a large number of swans upon it.

That portion to the west of the Backwater and south of the harbour is Weymouth proper, divided into two wards—Wyke Regis ward and Weymouth ward. The remaining portion to the north and east is Melcombe Regis, divided into north and south wards.

The Melcombe Regis portion of the Borough is the more level of the two, and cannot be considered hilly, its elevations being of easy gradient, and rising to a maximum of 108 feet. Weymouth is more hilly, the gradients not being so easy and rising to a maximum of 175 feet.

The geological formation of Melcombe Regis is Oxford Clay, within that portion immediately facing the bay—an overlying strata of sand and shingle, to a depth of 8 or 10 feet. Weymouth is Coral Rag.

Meteorology.—Full details of the meteorology of the Borough will be found in the appended report of the Honorary Borough Meteorologist, Mr I. J. Brown, F.R.Met.Soc., but the following summary of his report may be of interest:—

Highest maximum temperature	77·0 on July 21st
Lowest minimum ,, ...	26·3 on Nov. 21st
Mean maximum ,, ...	56·8
Mean minimum ,, ...	45·3
Mean of maximum and minimum	51·0
Difference from average	+ 0·4
Number of days on which rain fell	141
Total fall in inches..	21·61
Mean relative humidity	78
Number of hours of bright sunshine	1706·52

Climate—The climate of Weymouth, as proved by the Meteorological Returns for a long series of years, is one of the most equable in Great Britain. Never very hot in summer it has, in addition, the benefit of the cool breezes from the bay in front and from the Channel on the westerly side, not more than one or two miles distant. The air is never stagnant, and practically speaking, from whichever direction the wind blows, there is cool sea breeze. In comparison with other health resorts in Great Britain, the mean maximum is the lowest on the south coast, with the exception of Eastbourne. This should explode the common fallacy that the town is unbearable in July and August. The winter temperature, again, is a mild one, yet never enervating. It is practically the same as Torquay, and is only slightly lower than Guernsey, Falmouth and Ilfracombe, being considerably higher than Brighton and Eastbourne. This rainfall is one of the lowest in the Kingdom, the ten years' average, compared with that of other health resorts, being the lowest but one on the south coast. and that only by one-tenth of an inch. In the number of rainy days, it is the lowest by a considerable number. In the record of bright sunshine, few (if any) places on the South Coast or elsewhere can equal it, though it is known that, until recently, the sunshine recorder was at least 6 per cent. deficient, for which no allowance was made. The atmosphere is a comparatively dry one, the relative humidity being low, the ten years' average being the second lowest. Here again until recently the position of the instruments did not do justice to the climate, and since their removal the relative humidity has considerably decreased.

Were these facts as to the climate of Weymouth made more widely known, its popularity as a health resort, both during summer and winter, should undoubtedly increase. There are, I learn, few days in the year that have not a glint of sunshine, and it is rare for a day to be wholly wet. Though rainfall is small, it is, in addition, sooner over than in the majority of other places, the rain storms being more of a tropical character, heavy but short, rather than the steady continued drizzle so typical in England generally.

The public institutions in the Borough from a health point of view are :—In Melcombe Regis, the Princess Christian Hospital, the Royal Hospital, the Eye Infirmary ; in Weymouth, the Workhouse. The Isolation Hospitals are in the Rural District at Chickerell.

Area.—The Area of the Borough is 1,654 acres, of which 1,299 are land and 355 water.

Population.—As in all years, except the census year, this has to be estimated, and following the usual line that the rate of increase from decennial period to decennial period is a constant one, the *normal* population at the end of June should be 20,788, and these figures I have taken as the basis for statistics. This method of calculation is not perfect, and in many cases is a fallacious one, and in the case of this Borough particularly so, owing to the extension of the boundaries in 1895. Correction of error is made, however, by taking the number of inhabited houses, excluding lock-up shops, etc., and multiplying this by the average number of inhabitants to each house as ascertained by the census, and by the natural increase of the population as ascertained by the difference between the births and deaths. This latter allows nothing for migration. I have been unable to obtain the necessary information for the former method, and by the latter the number is within a few figures of the first method.

The estimated populations for the two districts are :—

Weymouth	10,626
Melcombe Regis	10,162
Total	20,788

Births.—During 1905, 548 births were registered, distributed as under :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Weymouth	216	142	358
Melcombe Regis	107	83	190
	323	225	548

There were 24 illegitimate births, being equal to 4·3 per cent. of the whole. In 1904 the rate was 2·09 per cent., and in 1903 3·74 per cent. This is not a subject for congratulation, but the reverse. The total number of births is an increase from last year, and is the greatest in numbers for the past ten years.

Rate.—This is equal to a rate of 26·3 per 1,000 of the estimated population. This also is the highest recorded for ten years, and is much above the average. It is, however, still beneath the average birth-rate for England and Wales, which for 1905 is 27·2.

The birth-rate for Weymouth is equal to 33·7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. That of Melcombe Regis to 18·7 per 1,000. It will be noticed that the one portion of the District is nearly double that of the other. This seeming anomaly is in part accounted for by the character of the District, Melcombe Regis being in greater part the residential district. This seems to be characteristic of the whole country as regards birth-rates.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered in the Borough was 335. This is equal to an uncorrected death-rate of 16·1 per 1,000 inhabitants. The corresponding rate for 1904 was 14·9, for 1903—15·3, and the average for nine years 1896 to 1904, 14·4 per 1,000.

This rate represents the total number of deaths registered as occurring in the district. It does not, however, shew the true death-rate, which can only be shewn by deducting the deaths of *all* visitors. This is not permitted for statistical purposes, but it is allowable to deduct those deaths of non-residents which may occur in public institutions in the Town and to add those of residents of the Town which may have occurred in public institutions situated outside the District. This method of calculating rates invariably tells against health resorts, and the death-rates of such places can never be taken as any criterion of their salubrity or otherwise.

In 1905 we have to deduct from the total of 335, 24 deaths of non-residents which occurred in public institutions within the Borough and to add five of residents which occurred in public institutions without the District. This gives a corrected number of 316, and is equal to a rate of 15·2 per 1,000. Last year it was 13·7. Of this number, 178 were attributed to Weymouth ; equal to a rate of 16·7 per 1,000, and 138 to Melcombe Regis, equal to a rate of 13·5 per 1,000.

For full details of the various age periods and causes of death see Table IV. in Appendix.

The following table gives the age periods for the Districts :—

	All Ages.	Under 1	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards.	Deaths in Public Institutions.
Weymouth	178	48	10	7	10	48	55	32
Melcombe Regis ..	138	7	8	5	6	58	54	19
	316	55	18	12	16	106	109	51

There were 12 Coroner's inquests during the year. Two deaths were uncertified by either Coroner or Doctor. The ostensible cause of death given was Premature Birth in one case and Senile Decay in the other.

Infantile Deaths.—There were 55 deaths of infants under one year of age, which is equal to a death-rate of 100·3 per 1,000 births. This is a considerable improvement on the last two years, the rates being : 1904, 106·8, and 1903, 132·1. The average rate for the last nine years was 112·8 per 1,000 births. Table V. in Appendix gives a detailed account of the causes of death and the age periods at death in weeks and months. Premature birth and debility from birth or wasting diseases account for 23 deaths, and diarrhœal diseases for 16 deaths.

With regard to these latter, I am strongly of opinion that a great deal of the diarrhœal diseases of children are caused by the lack of a pure supply of milk for feeding purposes. It is, of course, quite possible that milk may become contaminated after it leaves the cowkeepers' hands, and also that in hand-fed children sufficient care is not taken to keep the bottles, etc., properly sweet ; but at the same time I am satisfied that in a large number of cases the milk is contaminated during the process of milking. Some remarks on this subject will be made under the review of the Dairies and Cowsheds, but much illness and many deaths may be prevented by a more strenuous application of the limited powers we already possess under the Dairies and Cowsheds Order.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—During 1905 there were 31 cases of infectious diseases notified in the Borough, of which 22 occurred in Weymouth and nine in Melcombe Regis. This is equal to a rate of 1·4 per 1,000 of the population, and is an increase upon last year, but is considerably under the average for the previous nine years, which is at the rate of 4·0 per 1,000.

The rates for ten years are given here for the purposes of comparison:—

1896	2·2 per 1,000	1901	14·0 per 1,000
1897	1·7 ,,	1902	8·8 ,,
1898	0·8 ,,	1903	1·3 ,,
1899	1·1 ,,	1904	0·3 ,,
1900	5·9 ,,	1905	1·4 ,,

Table III. in the Appendix gives the age periods for each disease and the number removed to the Hospitals from each District.

The attack rate per 1,000 of each disease and the death-rates, if any, are given under their various headings. The death-rate for all the zymotic diseases is at the rate of 0·67 per 1,000.

Small-pox.—No cases were notified. In the early part of the year five notifications were received from the Port Medical Officer of Southampton that men had landed from ships on which cases of small-pox had occurred, and were proceeding to Weymouth. Each case was visited and kept under observation. All proved to be free from infection.

Cholera.—No cases were reported during the year.

Early in the summer a circular was issued by the Local Government Board notifying local authorities that certain ports abroad were infected ports, and enjoining care on Port Authorities in inspecting vessels hailing from these ports. In August a telephone message reached me that nine stowaways had been landed in the Borough from a vessel from an infected port without the knowledge of the Port Medical Officer or myself. Steps were at once taken, with the aid of the Police, to have the men searched for, but the delay in the message reaching me was sufficiently great to allow the men to scatter and make their way out of the town, where trace was lost.

Action of this sort must be strictly prohibited by the Port Authority in the future, as the consequences might have been very serious.

Diphtheria.—Fifteen cases were notified, 13 from Weymouth and two from Melcombe Regis, being equal to an attack rate of ·71 per 1,000. Eleven were moved and treated in the Isolation Hospital, equal to 73 per cent. Two died before they could be moved; two were treated at home.

One case notified as membranous croup from Franchise Street. Source of infection was not traced; drains of this and adjoining house were defective. It was moved to Hospital in a serious state, rallied, but died from post diphtheritic paralysis.

On October 9th I was notified from Trinity School of a girl being absent suffering from mumps. On visiting I found a typical and advanced case of diphtheria (diagnosis being confirmed by bacteriological examination). On the previous day a girl from the same school had been released from attendance at school suffering from sore throat. The case being suspicious, a swab was taken and the cultivation examined on the 9th, and proved to be diphtheria. This case was promptly moved to Hospital, but the first-mentioned parents positively declined to have the girl moved, and as isolation could be carried out, it was not insisted upon. On the 10th another case from the same class was seen by me and isolated at the Hospital. The same afternoon the throats of all the children in the girls' and infants' room were examined and swabs taken of every suspicious case. A large number of sore throats were present, but only two proved to be diphtheria, and these were moved to the Hospital. All sore throats were, however, excluded from the school and kept under observation. In all six cases between the 9th and 20th were found in the girls' school and one in the boys. The school premises were at the end of the week thoroughly disinfected.

Two other cases occurred in the first house attacked where the child was not removed, and I was informed by the servant, who was the last affected, that my instructions as to isolation were very imperfectly observed.

Two other cases occurred in a family not connected with the school, and were treated at the Hospital. The source of infection of the first cases was suspected to be the milk supply. Examination of the farm and dairy proved the place grossly insanitary.

During the three weeks the outbreak lasted some 70 cases of sore throat were seen by me, principally in school children, and bacteriological cultures were made and examined in every case. One case, which was quickly fatal, occurred in a hotel in Chickerell Road at the beginning of December. The source of infection could not be traced, but it was probably brought by some visitor to the hotel.

Two other cases occurred, mother and child, during the last days of the year, the child dying before receipt of the notification, the mother being moved to the hospital. The source of infection in this case could not be found.

Three deaths were registered from diphtheria, equal to a rate of 20 per cent. per attack, or 0·14 per 1,000 of the population.

Erysipelas.—Six cases were notified, equal to 0·28 per 1,000 of the population. No deaths were registered.

Investigation of the sanitary state of the premises was made in each case and defects remedied.

Scarlet Fever.—Three cases were notified, equal to an attack rate of 0·14 per 1,000. No deaths occurred. All were imported cases.

One case, notified in March from Weymouth College, patient was a new boy and turned ill the day following his arrival. He was removed to the isolation hospital. A second case, notified in June, the whole family having arrived from near Trowbridge two days previously. As the parents declined to have the patient in the isolation hospital, he was put in a special cab which was taken by rail to Trowbridge, returned here, and disinfected.

Third case was a girl from Stoke Newington, and had only been in the town two or three days. She was removed to the isolation hospital.

Four other cases were suspected to be scarlet and were provisionally removed to the isolation hospital for observation purposes, but were soon discharged, the cases proving not to be that disease.

Enteric Fever.—Five cases were reported, equal to an attack rate of 0·24 per 1,000. One death resulted, being 20 per cent. of the attacks and 0·04 per 1,000 of the population.

First case was imported in a lady returning from abroad while sickening with the disease. The case was throughout obscure.

Second case was in a Post Office official. It was difficult to trace the source of infection, as the man was absent in a rural district each week end and had been, a short time previous to the attack, on his holidays. No source of infection in the town could be traced, and the probabilities were that it was contracted outside.

Third case died the day following the notification, which had been delayed. No authentic information could be had, but at or about the time of infection the man had been in Jersey and France for a short period.

The fourth case was in close proximity to the last one, and followed in about a month or so. After most exhaustive investigation, I am convinced that the great predisposing, if not the actual source of infection, was the defective drainage system of the house. The house is the last of the street, the drains enter the blind or higher end of the branch sewer, which joins the sewer leading from the house of No. 3 case, a short distance below, and is the first branch thereof. Owing to delay in diagnosis and notification, no precautions or disinfectant were used with the discharges from the patient, which were passed into the drains. The fall in this sewer is not great and the current slow. The drains of the house of No. 4 had been re-laid in July, and passed under the house. An inspection chamber was placed in the kitchen floor, which was an underground room. A second inspection chamber was placed in the area—under a pavement grating—in front of the kitchen window, with a fresh air inlet on a level with the top of the window. The cover of the cleansing arm of the disconnecting trap had not been put on, and a free vent was thus left for gases from the whole length of the sewer. The tale flap of the fresh air inlet was defective. When the kitchen window was open—which it generally was—the ingress of gases from the sewer was steady and continuous into the basement kitchen, and thence into the rest of the house. In addition, the ventilating shaft opened on a level with and in close proximity to a staircase window in a narrow passage. Apart from this every other possible source of infection was inquired into and excluded.

Fifth case was an imported one from Chatham—a naval officer, who sickened the day of his arrival. The notification in this case was delayed over three weeks. The patient himself blames oysters that he partook of, which had been dredged from some of the creeks of the Medway. Investigation of this cause is at present proceeding.

The Medical Officer of Health for Chatham has, since writing above, informed me that cases of enteric from eating oysters from the same source are known.

A sixth case was provisionally notified in December in a house in Hope Street. As the domestic surroundings were such as to be dangerous, the case was removed to the isolation hospital. Further observation proved it not to be enteric, and after being interned 14 days was discharged early in the New Year.

Continued Fever.—One case was notified simply as a matter of precaution, though the diagnosis remained doubtful throughout. There was in this case a suspicion that the consumption of cockles gathered from the Backwater originated the illness, but evidence was by no means conclusive.

NON-NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Measles.—There were some prevalence of measles, chiefly among the children attending the Infant Department of Holy Trinity School, in January and February, following upon the outbreak in other districts referred to in the Annual Report for 1904. The necessary precautions were taken in each case, and the outbreak was practically at an end by the middle of February. No cases were known in the latter months of the year, but early in August a boy (from Abbotsbury), who was being treated in the Princess Christian Hospital, developed symptoms, and was moved to the Isolation Hospital, that place being then empty of patients. After a week's residence, he was discharged.

Two deaths were ascribed to this disease. In each case the fatal result was due to broncho pneumonia, following measles. One was a child of 21 months, the other 17 months old. This is equal to a rate of 0·09 per 1,000.

Whooping Cough.—This is also a non-notifiable disease, and its prevalence is only known through its effect upon the school attendance.

With the exception of a few scattered cases in May in connection with Holy Trinity Infant School, and a few cases in St. John's in September, there has been no prevalence. Three deaths of infants were ascribed to it, being equal to a rate of 0·14 per 1,000.

Chicken Pox (Varicella).—There was an outbreak of this in connection with St. John's Girls' and Infants' Department from the middle of March until the end of April, and a few cases occurred at the same time in connection with St. Mary's School. They were nearly all very slight cases, and many of them were unrecognised by parents in the first instance, which conduced to the spread of infection. By means of systematic visits to the school and to the houses of all actual or suspected cases, the outbreak was stopped without interference with school work. A few isolated cases were noted later in the year, chiefly among the better class people in Melcombe Regis.

Epidemic Influenza.—One death was registered from this disease, but so far as I am aware there has been no outbreak of influenza during the year.

Diarrhœa.—Five deaths were attributed to this disease, three in infants and two in aged persons. As these deaths were distributed more or less throughout the year, they can hardly be attributed to any epidemic form. Inquiries in some of the cases lead to the idea that improper feeding and a milk supply from dairies that are not over clean have been the principal cause. The rate is equal to 0·24 per 1,000.

Enteritis.—Thirteen deaths were registered as being from enteritis, all in infants, of which ten were in Weymouth and three in Melcombe Regis.

The deaths from this disease are chiefly in the congested and more insanitary parts of the town, and as far as can be ascertained principally in hand-fed infants, unerringly pointing to the feeding being the cause. Here again the milk supply must bear the greater portion of the brunt, though probably the manner of preparation of the milk and the cleanliness of the bottles have also some bearing. As regards the milk supply, the subject will be fully gone into under that heading.

The rate is equal to 0·62 per 1,000.

Sore Throats.—A number of cases of congested throats and enlarged tonsils occurred among girls in St. John's Girls' School in May. These were chiefly pupils in Standards III. and IV., which sat together in one room, and almost all the affected girls came from Westham. Upon careful investigation nothing was found to point to specific infection as the cause of the outbreak. One schoolroom was sometimes very stuffy on account of some blockage of the ventilators, which was remedied. The only other cause that could be suggested as acting in conjunction with this was that the weather was favourable for such complaints at the time, being dry and sunny, but with a cold N.E. wind, which would conduce to chills as well as a considerable amount of dust. Such a combination would have an injurious effect upon children having to cross the Westham Bridge four times a day. In October, as mentioned under diphtheria, sore throats were prevalent in Holy Trinity School and in St. Mary's, due to much the same cause, though many of them were typically septic throats. I was unable to account for the septic conditions in the majority of cases, as the school premises were free of nuisance or any likely cause. Complaint was being made, however, of bad smells from the Backwater, which were, however, somewhat exaggerated.

In December, sore throats again became prevalent in St. Mary's Girls' School, principally confined to the girls in the large classroom. No cause being evident, I had the temperature readings taken at intervals during the day, and found that in the mornings until about 11 a.m. the temperature of the room was considerably below moderate heat, and this may have accounted in some degree for the congested and catarrhal conditions seen at that time.

Tubercular Diseases.—Thirty-eight deaths were attributed to various forms of tubercular disease, equal to a rate of 1·8 per 1,000. Of these, 31 were due to phthisis alone, equal to a phthisis death rate of 1·4 per 1,000. These figures are a considerable increase on any previous years, though an investigation of many of the cases shew that they have been brought into the district at no very distant date, brought by the mildness and equability of the climate, for the purposes of cure. It is, therefore, a recommendation of the salubrity of the district rather than otherwise.

The age distribution for phthisis is as under—

Under 1 year..	—
1 to 5 ,,	—
5 to 15 ,,	3
15 to 25 ,,	11
25 to 65 ,,	16
65 and over	1

During the year the following circular was issued to the medical men practising in the town. It was issued by the Chairman of the Sanitary Committee, Dr. E. V. de Meric :—

"Kingswood,"
Rodwell,
Weymouth.

Dear Sir,

The Sanitary Committee of the Town Council desires to take further steps than are now possible, to deal with pulmonary tuberculosis, on the lines suggested in the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1904, a copy of which was sent you in April of this year. To do this it is essential to have the co-operation of the medical profession. May I ask you to indicate on the enclosed reply form whether or not you would be willing to notify, in the usual way, and for the usual fee, any cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurring in your practice that, in your opinion, the Sanitary Authority might deal with beneficially. You will probably agree that there is no need for interference in the cases of well-to-do patients who are able to take all precautions themselves.

I am,
Yours faithfully,
E. V. De Meric,
Chairman of the Sanitary Committee.

A majority of the doctors replied to the letter, and all of these were in the affirmative, so that for the last three months phthisis is in this district a voluntary notifiable disease.

Only one notification, however, has reached me, and that was from the Military Authorities at Netley Hospital. For the information of those doctors who may not have retained the copy of the report for 1904, I reproduce Dr. Jones' report upon this subject :—

> I.—*Notification.* The arguments in favour of its notification may be shortly given. It is well known that phthisis is an infectious disease. It can be prevented to a great extent from spreading by timely precautions of a simple nature. The course of the infection is insidious, and generally protracted ; the results of preventive measures are therefore not so immediately apparent as in the case of the ordinary infectious diseases, but their value cannot be doubted. The logical conclusion is that preventive measures should be adopted in their entirety for the disease.
>
> When a case of one of the notifiable infectious diseases is discovered it becomes the duty of the relatives, and of the medical attendant, to notify it to the Medical Officer of Health ; this has been made obligatory for the sake of the community. The Sanitary Authority is thereupon enabled to take the necessary steps to safeguard other people from the infection. This arrangement has worked on the whole with benefit to everybody concerned for a number of years.
>
> The same measures, in a modified form, might be adopted with regard to phthisis. When a patient has died from the disease, precautions taken against the spread of infection may be, and often are, too late ; they should begin as soon as the disease is discovered. And notification is an essential preliminary to this. But notification of phthisis cannot legally be made compulsory, it can only be voluntary. The system of voluntary notification has been tried in various districts with success, and, in my opinion, it would be a valuable adjunct to sanitary work in Weymouth. Should the Sanitary Committee decide to proceed in the matter, it would be necessary to obtain the opinion of every doctor practising in the town, for the system could not be adopted without the co-operation of the medical profession. In the event of a favourable response it could be arranged that cases of the disease should be notified in the usual way, the usual small fee being paid for the notification.
>
> Precautions could then be taken according to necessity. As a rule well-to-do patients are found to have taken timely precautions, without the intervention of the Sanitary Authority. Sanatorium treatment has become so general that patients who can afford it go at once to some institution for treatment. But poor patients cannot do this ; there is no Sanatorium in Dorset ; and in any case they can seldom leave their homes for the length of time required for such treatment. At their homes, and at their work, they do not, as a rule, take the precautions necessary to prevent the spread of the infection. Here the intervention of the Sanitary Authority may be of great value in various ways :—
>
> (1) Instruction of patients as to necessary precautions, and supply of disinfectants to poor patients. It is generally found that precautions are seldom thoroughly taken, even when patients are under medical treatment ; the Medical Officer of Health can give directions as to these often with advantage ; they involve care not only at home, but in the workshop and elsewhere.
>
> (2) Disinfection of rooms, clothing, bedding, etc., when necessary. This is of advantage, and a great safeguard to others, when patients move from one room to another, or from one house to another, as they frequently do in the course of a long illness.
>
> (3) The history of the illness is obtained, and sources of infection may be traced.
>
> (4) The sanitary condition of the patient's house can be investigated, and remedied if defective.
>
> (5) Sanatorium or other institutional treatment may possibly be arranged for patients who could not otherwise get the benefit of it.

II.—*Temporary isolation of selected cases in a part of the Borough Isolation Hospital.* The last point leads to a suggestion that was touched upon in my report for 1903, and that has since been brought before the Sanitary Committee, namely, that the Borough Isolation Hospital might be utilised as a help to other preventive measures. It is not intended to suggest that it should be used for protracted treatment, that would be neither suitable nor possible. But a short residence there might be of very great service in teaching patients how to look after themselves, so as not to be sources of risk to others. What they have to practice is simple enough, but it must be done habitually and instinctively, and to that end patients must be drilled in the necessary precautions. A stay of a month at the Hospital, with nothing else to do than to learn these precautions under favourable conditions, would do far more good than countless directions given at home, where no one could see that they were properly obeyed. Further, judging from the improvement in the general health of other patients who have been at the Hospital for short periods, a decided improvement might be expected in the condition of many a phthisical patient taken hither from a poor home for a month, though it might not be maintained afterwards. And, finally, it would give an opportunity for cleansing and disinfecting the home, before the patient's return to his old surroundings.

Should the principal of this suggestion be accepted, the details could be arranged later. Its adoption would cost no more than the actual maintenance of the patients; nursing and medical attendance are already available. And, until the method has passed the experimental stage, it could be arranged that such patients should only be admitted when the Hospital was empty, and sent home if any other infectious patients had to be admitted.

Cancer.—Fifteen deaths were registered as from cancer, five being in Weymouth and ten in Melcombe Regis. This is equal to a death-rate of 0·71 per 1,000. The corresponding rates in former years are:—

1900	0·5	1902	0·59	1904	0·97
1901	1·05	1903	0·63	1905	0·71

Isolation Hospital.—The Borough Isolation Hospital is outside the Borough boundary, near Chickerell, in the Weymouth Rural District. It is situated in an enclosed piece of ground 5½ acres in extent. It is built of galvanized iron, wood lined, and heated by slow combustion stoves.

It consists of a central administration block and two detached ward blocks, connected by a covered passage-way with the central block, a laundry block, and other outbuildings. Accommodation is provided for twenty patients in each block, and two rooms have recently been converted in the administration block into a ward for two beds, which may be used either for enteric cases or for observation purposes in doubtful cases.

During 1905, 22 cases have been admitted into the Hospital, of which 16 were actually suffering from infectious disease. The cases isolated may be thus classified:—

Diphtheria	11
Scarlet Fever	3
Enteric Fever	1
Measles	1
Suspected Diphtheria	1
,, Scarlet Fever	4
,, Enteric ,,	1

The suspected cases of disease were of so suspicious a character, and their domestic arrangements of such a character, that had the cases ultimately proved to be infectious, a further outbreak would have been inevitable. Hence of two dangers, we necessarily chose the lesser. It speaks highly of the care taken by the staff in such cases that in no child did this or any other infectious disease develop through their enforced residence in the Hospital. One case of scarlet fever was retained a little over three weeks before discharge as proving not to be scarlet. The home conditions—in a tenement dwelling—rendered it necessary to exercise extreme care.

The permanent staff consists of the matron, caretaker and wife, who acts as cook, and their daughter, who is a ward maid. When necessary, nursing assistance is provided. Such has been required on four occasions during the year, chiefly for night work.

One death occurred in the Hospital in the early part of the year from diphtheritic paralysis.

The expenses of the Hospital for 1905 were:—

	£	s.	d.
Salaries	124	13	8
Water, coal and light	42	3	0
Rates, taxes and insurance	5	19	0
Maintenance of staff and patients	83	1	10
Improvement of grounds, and other establishment charges	66	0	3
	£321	17	9

The expense of the whole upkeep of the Hospital for the year, divided by the number of patients, viz., 22, gives a total cost for each patient of £14 12s. 7¾d.; or, divided by the total number of days the patients were in Hospital, viz., 413, gives 15s. 7½d. per patient per day. I must record my appreciation of the work performed by the Matron, Nurse Kay. She is a mine of strength in herself, most indefatigable in the performance of her duties, and unsparing of herself in times of emergency or danger. The patients are unanimous in their praise of her kindness and care for their comfort.

The Small-Pox Hospital adjoins the Fever Hospital, and contains eight beds, with outbuildings. It is kept ready for patients, but has not, so far, been required.

The disinfection of clothing is carried out by super-heated steam in a Washington Lyons disinfector. This is at present housed in the town's yard, which place I do not consider a suitable one, and have reported accordingly. Arrangements are at present in progress for its removal to a more suitable site. The disinfector has been used 49 times during the year.

The disinfection of houses is carried out by means of formalin vapour, vaporised by lamps placed in the rooms. This method, if efficient, is slow and cumbersome, and entails a room being hermetically sealed at least during one night. The loss of one or two rooms, frequently the only ones, entails some considerable hardship on the poorer class of people. I have found, in my former post, the pneumatic spray much more expeditious, more economical, and as efficient, and as the lamps require renewing I advise the purchase of a spraying machine.

The removal of infectious patients from their homes to the Hospital has in past years been by means of a cab specially kept for the purpose, and from which the linings had been removed and the inside varnished. It was not a very suitable vehicle, and I advised the purchase of a proper up-to-date ambulance in which patients under the care of an attendant could be removed with every comfort and the minimum of danger. A new ambulance from a well-known firm in Lancashire is now daily expected, and a suitable and heated house is about to be erected to shelter it.

Water Supply.—The Borough is supplied throughout by a private Company, which also supplies various villages in the adjacent rural district.

The water springs from the upper green sand, below the chalk at the foot of a hill beyond the village of Sutton Poyntz, 3½ miles from the town.

A large number of springs issue from the side of the hill and run directly into a small reservoir or collecting tank, partly concrete and partly soil. It is not stored here, excepting occasionally for a few hours.

The whole source is surrounded for about four acres by an unclimbable iron fence, and is uninhabited. The height of the reservoirs and springs is about 80 feet above sea level. The water flows by gravitation to the pumping station 40 feet below, where partly by turbine engines and partly by steam it is pumped to the reservoirs at Preston 160 feet higher, and at Wyke 185 feet higher. From the Preston reservoir it flows by gravitation to a reservoir at Rodwell at 142 feet, and these Rodwell and Wyke supply the town of Weymouth, the latter supplying the higher parts of the town. The supply is on the constant system, and the quantity is sufficient. It is of excellent quality, though rather hard. The accompanying analysis has been given me by the Company as having been made by their Analyst :—

(Copy).

Western Counties Laboratory, Bristol,
August 5th, 1905.

To the Board of Directors of Weymouth Water Co.

Gentlemen,

I beg to hand you herewith the results of analysis of a sample of Weymouth water received from your Manager on the 29th ult., as follows :—

	Grains per Gallon.
Saline Ammonia	·0008
Albuminoid Ammonia	·0012
Nitrogen as Nitrate	·29
Nitrates	absent
Chlorine as Chloride	1·90
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 80° F ..	·003
Total dissolved solids	20·0
Permanent hardness	3·5
Total ,, ...	14·5
Poisonous metals	absent
Colonies on Gelatine Plate	132 per cent.
Bacillus Coli and B. Sporogenes Enteritidis ..	absent

These results are perfectly satisfactory.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed) F. Wallis Stoddart.

I have recently called the attention of the Water Company to the use of lead piping as service pipes to individual houses. Some of these are of considerable length. Though the hardness of the water and the deposition of lime salts on the inside of the lead pipe render the question of the lead becoming soluble rather remote. There is still a possibility of such occurring in houses that have been empty for some time and the water shut off. The presence in many districts now of electric cables and the further possiblity of electric tramways being introduced have slightly accentuated the danger, as electrolytic action may take place from leakages of electric current. I have advised the Company to sanction and recommend the use of tin or tin-lined or iron pipes as less open to danger.

Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops.—There are eight cowkeepers on the register. The cowhouses are mostly of a temporary character, and several of them are dilapidated to a considerable extent. With one exception, I found that the periodical lime-washing in the month of October had not been carried out, and that the walls and partitions were in a dirty and insanitary state.

In no case had the Bye-Laws been observed as to washing the floor, and in many the cleansing or sweeping of it had been done so perfunctorily as to cause a thick coating of filth over the floor. In several of the number the floors are either formed of cobble-stones, or if of other material it is so broken and full of holes as to render the efficient cleaning of them impossible. In those cases where I was enabled to see the cowmen at the milking I found that no precautions whatever had been taken to see that the udders and teats of the cows were clean. The milking is done, I believe, in all cases by men, and they seem to proceed from whatever work they have been previously engaged in to milk without any idea of washing their hands, and in many of the cases filth from their hands and the udders and teats was seen to enter the milk. The men themselves, on their attention being drawn to this, seemed to take it as a usual occurrence, and stated that the milk was strained afterwards. It is useless to trust to straining when this excrement is in solution. One cowman gravely stated that "cow dung" was a healthy thing, as it was the "herbs of the field." Perhaps a few meals of this "herb of the field" might alter his impression.

It seems impossible to instil into the mind of the average cowkeeper and his assistants that methods that were in vogue thirty or more years ago can possibly be wrong. Their belief in the innocuity of filth is a fetish with them; cleaning the udders and teats of a cow before milking is a superfluity and likely to be a danger to the cow, and that the ablution of their own hands before and between each milking is equivalent to signing their own death warrant.

The ignorance of the average cowman, of even the most elementary knowledge of hygiene, is appalling, when one considers that the lives of infants are dependent upon their conscientiously carrying out the instructions of those who have made this matter a special study. The self-sufficiency of their ignorance is the great stumbling block ; they will not be advised, and one is therefore forced, though much against the grain, to invoke the assistance of the law and appeal to them through their pocket in the shape of fines. One cowkeeper had to be brought before the Magistrates for persistent breach of the Bye-Laws. He was fined £5. He had been convicted the previous year for the same offence and fined 20s. and cost.

In one cowshed, which was suspected as being the origin of the diphtheria outbreak, an untrapped drain was found in the dairy, and the premises generally were in a most insanitary state. The cowkeeper, however, promptly remedied matters, and at my last visit was attempting to carry out instructions. In two cases there was no drainage system. The liquid filth was simply conveyed into a ditch in close proximity and eventually reached Lodmoor Marsh. The agent for the owner was interviewed, and promised to provide in one case a cesspool ; in the other the place will probably be closed as other matters were most unsatisfactory. In another case where the floors were very bad, the agent was interviewed, but declined my view of affairs. As, however, he stated that the G.W. Railway were likely to cut through the cowsheds within a year, I decided to wait a little longer.

There are 23 dairies and milkshops on the register, an increase of three from last year ; but I am satisfied that this does not entirely represent the number. Steps will be taken in the coming year to have the register more complete.

The majority of the larger milkshops or dairies are thoroughly well kept, and there is little, if anything, to complain of, with the exception that the milk is exposed on the counter of the shops uncovered, and is thus liable to be contaminated by dust, dirt, flies, and infectious material from customers. In some places there is a Bye-Law, Southend for instance, to the effect " That every retail purveyor of milk shall cause every vessel containing milk to be protected from dust, flies, and other sources of contamination by means of suitable covers." I shall endeavour during the coming year to have this carried out amicably by the milk purveyors, as it would be of undoubted benefit. The smaller milk purveyors places, where milk is sold along with heterogeneous articles, are not well kept. Such places are generally a fertile source of trouble and danger.

The greater part of the milk sold in the town is brought from the rural district. Up to the present many of these outside dairymen and cowkeepers have expressed their desire for me to visit, inspect, and if necessary recommend improvements in their dairies and cowsheds. This I shall endeavour to accomplish early in the year.

In many health resorts of a similar character to Weymouth a system is in vogue whereby all cowsheds and dairies in the district and those outside the district from which a supply comes to the town are inspected twice or more yearly and particulars are taken of the conditions of the cowsheds in every respect, the condition of the cattle, the washing of the milk vessels, cleanliness of dairies, the cleanly state of milking, etc. A register is then compiled and printed in the form of a bill and is posted up throughout the town, copies being sent to all dairymen and farmers concerned. Such bills are a guarantee that the Medical Officer is satisfied with the sanitary state of the places inspected. This remains in force for six months. The public and visitors to the town thus have an official guarantee as to the state of the dairy with which they do custom, and will not have to accept the biassed statement of the dairyman as at present.

I propose to ask the Sanitary Committee during the ensuing year to institute some such system, as the importance of the milk supply being as far as possible pure, is vital to a health resort.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 licensed slaughter houses in the Borough. At my first visit I found that lime-washing at the date fixed in the Bye-Laws had not been in any single case carried out, otherwise the places were not ill-kept. Sufficient care is not taken to keep the apparatus used in slaughtering clean, with the result that the blood becomes so hardened on it that it is difficult to remove and soon becomes a nuisance. Some of the floors are not in good condition. One slaughter house is in the midst of a marine store yard, which was in a very insanitary state. The two places are incompatible, and one or other should be discontinued. In one a putrifying mass of what had once been fat and other matters were found. It was alive with maggots. It was seized, and by consent of the owner sent to the destructor. The difficulty of proper supervision of these slaughter houses to the extent that is necessary is great owing to their number, their distance from each other, that frequent calls have to be made to find them open to inspection, and the paucity of the staff. A Municipal Abbattoir, to be used by all butchers, would easily remedy this and would secure that the public meat supply should be prepared under the best possible conditions, and that every animal should be inspected after slaughtering. A Municipal Abbattoir, erected under proper conditions, should be a source of revenue to the town from its first opening, and is as essential an undertaking as any form of Municipal trading, perhaps more so.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

I am not aware of there being any such in the district, though I believe one or more of the butchers use their slaughter houses for tripe boiling and dressing. There are no Bye-Laws dealing with these, an omission that ought to be remedied, as this tripe boiling and dressing easily becomes a nuisance.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is one common lodging house on the register. It is in a house which is entirely unfitted for the purpose, and is very imperfectly kept. One house has applied to be registered, but the Committee have postponed decision until the new year to allow certain sanitary arrangements to be carried out. There are one or two other houses within my knowledge that are to all intents and purposes common lodging houses. They will be dealt with during 1906.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

Systematic inspection has continued throughout the year. Many single houses have had serious faults in drainage or structural conditions remedied.

Weston Terrace.—Yards paved and drained, garden walls rebuilt and premises cleaned.

Selway Terrace.—Houses repaired inside, yard paving and drainage to be carried out at an early date.

North View Terrace.—Notice been served to have the back lane paved ; not yet carried out.

Garibaldi Row.—Notice been served to have the yards paved, closets repaired and defects of drainage made good.

Myrtle Terrace is at present in hand, having the last of the yards paved. The owners of certain houses, however, refuse to connect their drains with the new sewer, and the yard paving is of little good as the yards are below the level of the old sewer, hence cannot be drained and are in consequence flooded.

Certain tenement dwellings have, at various times during the year, been reported as being overcrowded, but investigation has failed to substantiate the allegation, though one or two cases were suspiciously close to the boundary line. The statements of the interested inhabitants of the houses have to be taken as a basis, and they are not invariably to be relied upon. I have suggested that Bye-laws be passed fixing a standard cubic space per head for tenement dwellings, and the suggestion is at present under consideration of the Sanitary Committee.

A petition was presented during the last days of the year calling my attention to Horsford Street (the east side) as being an insanitary area. I have given my official representation upon this petition, stating that in my opinion it is an insanitary area. The subject will be dealt with during the ensuing year. One house—which could hardly be classed as of the type for the working class—was attempted to be let in two parts by the owner. It was in such a dilapidated and insanitary state as to be dangerous or injurious to the health of the inmates, and after some correspondence with the owner it has been closed with an undertaking that it will not be let until my requirements are complied with.

ICE CREAM TRADE.

Generally speaking, the making of ice cream is carried out in places entirely unsuitable for the purpose and in surroundings that would not be allowed for a milk shop. They are kept under close supervision, and every endeavour is made to have them conducted properly.

FISH FRYING ESTABLISHMENTS.

There are five of these in the district, and little fault is to be found with them. They seem to be conducted in a very fair manner.

FOOD INSPECTION.

The difficulties in the way of proper food inspection are great as regards meat, and have been previously mentioned. One seizure of unsound meat was made at a slaughter house, as before mentioned. Fruit and fish are inspected at intervals, and street hawkers have had special attention.

Through the courtesy of the Chief Constable I am enabled to give the following particulars under the Food and Drugs Act:—

Chief Constable's Office,
Weymouth Police,
January 23rd, 1906.

Food and Drugs Act.

The number of samples procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1875, was 47, viz:—milk 23, butter 11, lard 4, demarara sugar 1, cheese 7, pepper 1.

Milk—19 genuine, 4 adulterated.

Prosecutions in two cases, viz., one person fined £1 and costs, total £2 8s.; the other fined £2 and costs, total £3 8s. Two others adulterated 2 per cent. and 2½ per cent. added water. No prosecution.

The other two were adulterated 12 and 10 per cent. added water respectively (*re* prosecutions).

The rest of the samples were genuine in each case.

FRANK EACOCK, C.C.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse is under the Surveyor's department, though any lack in its being efficiently performed or any nuisance caused by it is generally reported to the Health department and by them passed on to the Surveyor. The removal of refuse has been generally carried on very satisfactorily. Some complaints have reached me as to paper and litter being left by the men in the business thoroughfares but this has generally been due to the absence of a proper covered receptacle for containing the refuse. The scavenging is so arranged that every house shall be visited three times a week, and the two main business streets daily. The refuse so collected is conveyed to the destructor in Westham and destroyed. The steam generated by the destructor is used for working the engines which pump the sewage.

On the matter of provision of proper covered receptacles for the storage of house refuse I must reiterate the warning of my predecessor in his last annual report, upon the non-enforcement of the bye law requiring the provision of a *covered receptacle* for household refuse deposited in any public place. It is both unsightly and unsavoury and too frequently a nuisance in the manner it is at present exposed in any sort of receptacle. Further attention must be given to the enforcement of the Bye-law.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Practically all the houses in the Borough are connected with the main sewerage system or systems. Three houses in North Quay discharged directly into the harbour, but have now been connected to the sewer. The main sewers, one from Weymouth and one from Melcombe Regis, convey the sewage to a large tank at the pumping station on the west bank of the Backwater below the masonry dam. From this tank it is pumped as far as possible during the ebb-tide to a point in the sea, 1,150 feet beyond the Nothe Point and 25 feet below the low water level of ordinary spring tides. During storm periods it is impossible to overtake the extra amount of water and sewage, and some portion of it is discharged into the Backwater and reaches the sea through the harbour. There are two local sewers in the Belfield and Old Castle districts, which take the drainage of some 75 houses and discharge independently into Portland Roads.

Complaints have been received about nuisance arising from these, and instructions have been given for regular removal of seaweed from the mouths of the sewers discharging there and for keeping them as clean as possible.

Increasing advantage has been taken of the facilities provided for testing drains for owners and occupiers of houses and important improvements have in many cases been the result. On everything being found satisfactory a sanitary certificate is issued.

Fifty-two houses have been so tested. The number of certificates granted during the year was 20. This is satisfactory as far as it goes, but my short experience here has already shewn me that this certificate must not be relied upon for an indefinite period, and two years should be fixed as the maximum period. Owing to the clay soil on the one side and the houses on the Weymouth side being mostly built on the hill, subsidences take place. During dry weather the clay cracks and dries, allowing the pipes to subside, which frequently causes cracks in joints, then roots of trees and shrubs force their way in.

With regard to the drainage of new houses, I must in this join hands again with the report of my predecessor in 1904.

I have myself found three new houses in which, though the drains passed beneath one house, no disconnection whatever was made with the sewer. On attention being called to the omission, it was placed in the back yard, still allowing an undisconnected drain to pass beneath the house. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT NO DRAINS SHOULD BE COVERED IN UNTIL WATER TESTED AND A CERTIFICATE GIVEN. This certificate and inspection, I am of the opinion, should be given by the Health Department. The ventilation of the sewers is by ventilating shafts and Webb lights, of the latter 13 are in use. No complaints have reached me of nuisance from sewer ventilation.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

There are 13 Factories and 229 Workshops on the register, which however, is not entirely complete. A systematic inspection, street by street, is in course of completion, when every workshop and work-place will be visited and entered on the register. My short period of office has not enabled me to complete the visiting for this year.

Dressmakers and Milliners.—These are fairly well kept, four cases of overcrowding were detected and notice issued.

Tailor Shops.—A few of these were dirty as to the walls, and improvement in ventilation was required in one. The majority were in good order.

Laundries.—These were all found satisfactory. In one Steam Laundry some of the sanitary arrangements were out of order. Another Steam Laundry has adopted the pail and earth system of closets, but everything was in excellent order.

Very many of the workshops and two factories have been found without satisfactory or sufficient water closet accommodation. All are being called upon to provide sufficient accommodation, and to have the W.C's. provided with a flushing cistern.

Statutory notice has been served upon one workshop occupier, he having been nearly 12 months deficient.

Bakehouses.—There are 39 bakehouses in the district all of which have been inspected. There are two under-ground bakehouses. Many of the bakehouses are without flushing cisterns to the W.C.'s, and in consequence the pans are foul and insanitary. Notice is being served upon all to provide a flushing cistern. Lime-washing was required to be done in 28. Improvements in ventilation was ordered in four, and has been carried out in three. One under-ground bakehouse is under notice to have the means of ventilation improved. One bakehouse is entirely unsuitable for the purpose, being recently converted from a stable into a bakehouse.

In the majority of the cycle workshops brazing forges are without means of carrying off the poisonous fumes arising from the charcoal or coke in common use upon them. All such have been served with notice to provide a hood and chimney to the forge.

Under-noted is a list of the different factories and workshops on the register, which, however, is not yet complete :—

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of	Total.	Number of	Total.
Bakehouses	39	Stonemasons	3
Basket Makers	3	Tailors	20
Bicycle Workshops	7	Fancy Needlework	1
Boat Builders	4	Coach Builders	2
Cabinet Makers, Carpenters, and Builders	31	Watchmakers	5
Coach Painters	3	Umbrella Maker	1
Confectioners	3	Photographers	4
Dressmakers and Milliners	39	Sailmakers	1
Laundries	8	Shipbuilder	1
Machinist	1	Wheelwrights	2
Painters and Plumbers	11	Factories	13
Picture Framers	3		242
Saddlers	2		
Ship Chandlers	2		
Shoemakers	15		
Smiths and Tinsmiths	18		

Homeworkers.—Twelve lists of homeworkers were received in February, containing 42 names. No lists seem to have been received in August, but one reached me in November containing five names. Several employers of outworkers have been found late in the year who have not sent lists at any time.

The outworkers are principally tailors. The greater number of these have been visited by me and found satisfactory.

MIDWIVES' ACT.

This Act came into full force on April 1st. Of 48 known midwives, or persons terming themselves such, resident or practising in the district, only 13 availed themselves of the opportunity of registering themselves. Of this number, two only have officially forwarded Form XII. stating their intention to practise or that they have practised in the district. As it is necessary that they should give notice each year of their intention to practise, I am waiting with interest to note how many of the 13 send such notice. I have visited a considerable number of those formerly practising as midwives, and am convinced that there is evasion of the terms of the Act upon the part of such, and that they are continuing to practice as midwives, though they now term themselves nurses. Amongst those who have registered, there is complete ignorance of some of the duties that have been thrown upon them. I have not during my period of office received a single notice of a midwife having required to send for medical aid. None of those visited have kept a register of their cases. One only possessed a bag. It will be necessary, early in the year, to call all registered midwives together and give them instruction in their work and duties, and this I propose to do. There is no doubt that this Act is likely to have far reaching consequences, and my experience of the working of it in my former post has shewn that though its intention is good and has already, when firmly carried out, been of much value, that there are some anomalies in it which may cause a great deal of trouble. A midwife is, under certain circumstances, bound to call in—under a severe penalty—medical assistance, but no provision is made for the supply of medical assistance. Medical men expect to be paid, and ought to be paid for their services, and cannot be expected to respond to a call for their services unless their is a prospect of payment. The Poor Law machinery is too cumbersome and slow for an emergency. What is the midwife to do with a poor patient, not a pauper? Some scheme must be formulated speedily by the Local Supervising Authority whereby medical men shall be paid for services rendered under this Act, which practically compels a midwife to get aid, and throws the onus of the death, perhaps, of a patient upon the medical man, who may refuse—and for proper cause refuse—to attend to the call. The Local Government Board have not given a decided answer as to whether payments of this character would be legal, but some towns, I believe, have risked it, and I have not heard of any surcharge having been made in consequence.

Weymouth Port Sanitary Authority.—Dr. R. Palgrave Simpson.

I have the honour to submit to you my Report as Medical Officer for the year ending 31st December, 1905, and in so doing have much pleasure in being able to give a very satisfactory account of the health of the Seamen of the Mercantile Marine, whose ships have entered the Authority's area during the past year. I give below statistics of the vessels which entered Portland Roads during 1905:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Steamers from Foreign	560	686,739
Sailing Vessels from Foreign	49	16,254
Steamers Coastwise	289	66,006
Sailing Vessels Coastwise	421	38,176
Total	1319	807,175
There were also 36 vessels with a tonnage of 17,943 which called in here from British Ports bound out ..	36	17,943
	1355	825,118

Vessels which have entered Weymouth Harbour during 1905:—

	Number.	Tonnage.
Steamers from Foreign	376	94,967
Sailing Vessels from Foreign	31	4,072
Steamers Coastwise	224	25,152
Sailing Vessels Coastwise	86	6,477
Total	717	130,668
Grand Total	2,072	955,786

The following is a Return of Steamships and Sailing Vessels boarded and duly inspected under Port Sanitary Acts, in Portland Roads, Weymouth Roads, and in Weymouth Harbour during the year 1905:—

Number of Steamers	308
Number of Sailing Vessels	94

of which 142 were under Foreign Flags.

Notices served on Masters to cleanse Closets, Forecastles, Cabins, etc.:—

British	11
Foreign	19

Water ordered to be pumped out, tanks cleaned and fresh water supplied—20.

Seamen removed sick to Hospital—2.

Number of Vessels disinfected—8.

Bedding, etc. destroyed in one case.

The number of patients in the Hospital during the year was 8, and included four cases of Enteric Fever.

One case of Diphtheria.
One case of Small Pox.
One case of Scarlet Fever.
One case of Continued Fever.

On the 4th February, summoned by His Majesty's Customs to visit the S.S. "Scottish Monarch," Captain T. R. Patey, bound from Bombay to Dunkerque; coaled at Port Said 22nd January. All well on board until 30th, when second Officer William Grierson declared sick with vomiting and pains in the back, and on 1st February an eruption having appeared on the forehead and face, the Captain isolated him and on examination he was found to be suffering from Small Pox and was removed to the Port Sanitary Hospital where he made a good recovery. The vessel coaled under quarantine regulations and all the rest of the crew of 35 being mustered and found in good health, the ship was disinfected and proceeded to sea.

On the 2nd September was summoned by His Majesty's Customs to visit S.S. "Membland," from the Danube *via.* Malta for Rotterdam, 1,943 tons, Captain A. W. Middleton. Left Braila on 12th August all well. On the 24th, W. Morgan, a fireman, complained of feeling ill and unable to continue work. On the following days he was feverish and varied from 101° to 103° but had no diarrhœa and continued in this condition until seen by me on September 2nd. On examination as no diagnostic signs of Enteric Fever were present I considered the case to be one of Continued Fever and ordered his removal to the Port Sanitary Hospital as he was too ill to proceed on his voyage. The ship's crew of 24 hands were mustered and found in good health, and after disinfection of the ship was allowed to proceed to sea. The patient made a good recovery.

On the 18th September was summoned by His Majesty's Customs to visit the S.S. "Trencglos" bound to Newcastle, as the Captain had reported a man sick on board. The ship had completed her coaling and was leaving Portland Harbour by the outer opening and we therefore informed the Authorities at Newcastle who boarded the ship on her arrival and removed the patient to their Hospital suffering from tonsillitis.

On the 30th September attended an Inquest at Portland, held by the late Sir R. N. Howard, on the body of a man named Joseph Walsh which had been landed from a Spanish steamer in the Roads; according to the evidence produced the cause of death was determined to be Alcoholism accelerated by exposure to the heat of the stoke-hole.

On the 27th October summoned by His Majesty's Customs to visit S.S. "Greenbank," Captain Thomas Wallis, bound from New Orleans to Rotterdam, with foul Bill of Health; several of the crew had been ill with fever and ague during the voyage but nothing of an infectious nature was discovered, and one man Grossmidt, a man of colour, was landed and placed in the Weymouth Hospital as he was in urgent need of surgical aid, and the ship was allowed to proceed to sea.

I am glad to be able to state that the Hospital and its surroundings are in good order and have not suffered from the gales of the past month. The caretakers, Mr. Dodge and his wife, have kept all the Wards in excellent order and have been most prompt in attending to all Patients on admission.

I have, as usual, paid visits of inspection to all vessels entering Weymouth Harbour from abroad, and have periodically gone on board the Passenger and Cargo Steamers of the Great Western Railway engaged in the traffic between this Port and the Channel Islands; also the Excursion Steamers of Messrs. Cosens and Company and have always found them clean and well cared for and the Sanitary condition satisfactory.

In conclusion, I think I may congratulate the Authority on the very great immunity from zymotic disease which has characterised the past year, and is no doubt due to the careful notification of all cases of infectious disease which is now practised throughout the country.

Wimborne.—Mr. C. H. Watts Parkinson.

Area of District.—523 acres.

Population (1901 census).—3,696. Estimated to middle of 1905, 3,700

Births.—73. 19·7 per 1,000 population.

Infantile Mortality.—Per 1,000 births, 68·4.

Deaths Registered.—53 or 14·3 per 1,000, but adding deaths of Wimborne residents occurring outside the district, and deducting deaths of non-residents (in the workhouse infirmary, cottage hospital, etc.), the corrected mortality is 43 or 11·6 per 1,000.

The Natural Increase of Population is 20.

The average age at death.—51 years, 7 months.

Of the 53 deaths 26 were under and 27 over 65.

Zymotic Death-rate.—Nil.

Deaths Registered.—53, an increase of 5.

Infants	..	Five; all from premature birth or debility from birth.
1 to 5	..	One—from an accident.
5 to 15	..	Six—1 phthisis, 1 bronchitis, 1 pneumonia and 1 accident.
15 to 25	..	None.
25 to 65	..	Fourteen—2 phthisis, 1 bronchitis, 2 pneumonia, 1 cancer and 1 alcoholism, etc,
Over 65	..	Twenty-seven—1 phthisis, 1 cancer, 2 bronchitis, 2 pneumonia and 4 heart disease.

Zymotic Diseases.—Only 8 cases notified during the year and no death occurred, all being mild cases; 5 cases of scarlatina, 2 diphtheria, and 1 continued, or mild enteric, fever.

Scarlet Fever.—5 cases in four houses: 1 Ethelbert Road in January, 1 Eden Grove in February, 1 Rowlands in August and 2 St. Catherine's in December. The cases were all distinct and no epidemic.

Diphtheria.—Two cases in Station road, in different houses; one in May and the other in July. Some defects in sanitary arrangements were found and remedied.

Enteric or Continued Fever.—A mild case at Eastbrook of what used to be called Febricula. No local cause could be found.

Phthisis.—Four deaths occurred; an increase, but two at least were cases of senile phthisis.

Cancer.—Two deaths as compared with four in 1904.

The year 1905 was remarkably free from epidemic or infectious disease, although measles and whooping cough were prevalent in the district around; the town was singularly free, and the only thing to record in this class of disease was a form of infectious catarrh, affecting the infants attending the Town School in the Autumn. There was a slight increase in the number of deaths and also in the number of births, while the deaths of infants increased from 2 to 5, but all the deaths were due to premature birth, debility from birth or congenital defects.

Water Supply.—The water supplied by the Company is of good quality and no complaints as to supply.

Sewage, Drainage and Excrement Disposal.—The scavenging of the town and removal of refuse, and supply of earth for closets, is carried out efficiently and regularly, and defects in drainage have been attended to.

Isolation Hospital.—Provision made at the workhouse, and the Council has appointed a Committee to consult with a Committee appointed by the Rural District Council.

Housing of the Working Classes.—The cottage supply is sufficent and the houses generally well kept and not overcrowded.

Slaughter-houses, Bakehouses and Common Lodging Houses.—These are inspected and reported on if defective, but they are, as a rule, well kept and in good order and also the

Factories and Workshops, and the Sanitary Inspector has no difficulty with them requiring special action or report.

RURAL SANITARY DISTRICTS.

Beaminster—Mr. F. P. Kitson.

Area.—The Area of the Beaminster Rural District is 57,017 acres.

Population (1901 census).—9,184. Estimated to the middle of the, year 9,180.

Births.—The birth-rate is 21·8 per 1,000 population. The number of births registered during the year was 201. This is 16 less than last year.

Deaths.—The death-rate is 13 per 1,000 population. The average age at death is 40. The number of deaths registered was 121 against 130 in 1904. There were twenty deaths under one year, and fifty-three at 65 and over, two over 90, and twenty over 80. There were nine deaths from infectious disease—five from whooping cough, two from diphtheria, and one from erysipelas and one from puerperal fever. Considering the number of cases of whooping cough, scarlet fever and diphtheria, the number of deaths is small. There were 16 deaths from heart disease, 13 from cancer, 12 from tuberculosis of the lung. The number of deaths from other chest diseases is unusually small.

Infant Mortality.—The infant mortality is 99·5 per 1,000 births.

Zymotic Rate.—The Zymotic death-rate is ·2 per 1,000 population.

Prevalence of Disease.—The amount of infectious disease during the year has been very large—57 cases have been reported during the year :—

Diphtheria	22
Membraneous Croup	1
Erysipelas	4
Scarlet Fever	26
Enteric Fever	3
Puerperal Fever	1

Whooping cough and chicken pox have been also very prevalent in some parts of the district.

Water Supply.—Progress has been made with the work of boring for water at Langdon and a good supply, both in quantity and quality, has been obtained.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The system of sewerage and drainage is by privies for the cottages and water closets for the larger houses. The dry earth system is more largely used. The disposal of refuse, etc., in Beaminster is at present a difficulty, and is carried out by the occupiers themselves.

The drainage of some of the house drains at Mosterton empty into the road surface drains.

Isolation.—The isolation hospital has not been used. In most cases of infectious disease it was found that cases could be isolated in their own homes, or that all the members of the family were affected and the houses were away from others.

The Housing of the Working Classes varies greatly in different parts of the district, and is in much the same condition as in former years.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.—The dairies and cowsheds are satisfactory ; the principal fault is that the dairies are so often used for other purposes, especially as larders. The yards are so uneven that it is impossible, in many cases, to keep them clean, and a very large quantity of manure must be lost on this account.

Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses are well cleaned and are satisfactory.

The Health of the District has been satisfactory during the year. The large number of cases of infectious disease among children of school age is, I believe, caused by the compulsory attendance of the children, especially when the epidemic is of a mild form. The managers and staffs of the schools could greatly help by being more careful and not allowing children to attend school from any house where there is any sickness.

The number of deaths caused by Phthisis has been larger than usual. If these cases were notified I believe the number might be decreased. Over-crowding, or any other sanitary defects would be at once seen to, the patient removed, if possible, and the other members of the family protected from infection.

Factory and Workshop Act.—I have nothing to report relating to the work under the Factory and Workshop Act. The list of workshops and out-workers is not complete.

Blandford.—Mr. G. W. Daniell.

Area of the District.—61,462 Acres.

Population.—(Census 1901) 8,808, and estimated to the middle of 1905, 8,818.

Births.—There were 171 births. The birth-rate is 19·4.

Deaths.—There were 91 deaths. The death-rate is 10·3.

The Infantile Mortality is 130·8.

The Zymotic Mortality is 0·3

The average age at Death is 48·7.

Nine persons died in the Workhouse and two in the Cottage Hospital, who were "Residents" of this District, consequently, these eleven deaths must be added to the original number (91) and thus the corrected death-rate is 11·3.

Children of four births registered are illegitimate.

I regret that there is a rise in the rate of Infantile Mortality, but I consider it may be satisfactorily accounted for. Two infants aged 9 and 10 months respectively died of Tubercular disease of the lungs. Two others only survived their birth for a few minutes. Two only lived 28 and 39 hours respectively, and another infant is certified as having died aged 12 days, in consequence of premature birth. This accounts for seven of the nine, and the remaining two having died aged 2 and 9 months, were the only deaths which may have resulted from improper feeding. I think these facts make the rise of Infantile mortality appear less formidable than otherwise might have been the case.

The ages at which death took place are:—

Under 1 year of age	9
Aged 1 year and under 5	1
5 ,, ,, 15	4
15 ,, ,, 25	5
25 ,, ,, 65	25
65 years and upwards	47
Total	91

The Mortality from every cause has been:—

Diphtheria	2
Enteric Fever	1
Influenza	1
Phthisis	6
Other Tubercular Diseases	4
Cancer	8
Bronchitis	8
Pneumonia	1
Premature Birth	4
Heart Diseases	16
Accidents	1
Suicide	1
All other causes	38
Total	91

With regard to the two deaths from Diphtheria, one occurred in the parish of Shroton or Iwerne Courtenay, but far removed from the village of that name. I had every reason to suppose that this child, who attended the school at Iwerne Minster, contracted the disease there, as diphtheria was very prevalent in that village at the time. The other case was admitted into the Isolation Hospital from Iwerne Minster, and so was a "Non-Resident" of this district.

With regard to the death from Enteric Fever at Blandford St. Mary, the young man aged 19, had been from home staying with friends in Somersetshire, and as I could ascertain no cause to account for the disease in his dwelling here, I wrote to the Medical Officer of Health of the district in which he had been visiting, but I was informed that no disease of that description had existed in the locality.

With regard to the six deaths from Phthisis:—

One took place at	Blandford St. Mary
Two ,,	Langton
One ,,	Spetisbury
Two ,,	Tarrant Keyneston

The eight deaths from Cancer were :—

One in the parish of	Bryanston
Three ,,	Charlton Marshall
One ,,	Tarrant Gunville
One ,,	Rushton
One ,,	Spetisbury
One ,,	Winterborne Whitechurch

I received 21 Notifications of Infectious Diseases during the year as follows :—

12	Diphtheria
1	Erysipelas
7	Scarlatina
1	Enteric Fever
21	

The cases of Diphtheria occurred in the following localities :—

1	Charlton Marshall
4	Gunville
2	Iwerne Courtney
1	Pimperne
1	Milborne St. Andrew
1	Spetisbury
1	Tarrant Keyncston
1	Winterborne Kingston
12	

The cases of Scarlatina were as follows :—

3	Blandford St. Mary
1	Durweston
1	Pimperne
2	Winterborne Stickland
7	

Ten of the 12 cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Isolation Hospital. With regard to their origin, nearly all the dwellings from which they came had insanitary causes near them, sufficient to account for it.

At Blandford St. Mary the Scarlatina was imported, but in the remainder the origin could not be traced.

Twenty-one cases of Infectious Diseases were received in the Isolation Hospital during the year, which still proves of incalculable benefit to the locality. They were 6 of Scarlatina, 13 of Diphtheria, and 2 of Measles.

The Water Supply of the District is altogether derived from wells, which naturally are liable to contamination, unless great care is exercised in their position and surroundings. We have paid particular attention to this with regard to dairies.

Mr. Phelps, the Inspector of Nuisances, has made a systematic inspection of all the Dairies and Bakehouses in the district during the year, many of which I have visited with him. The following is the result of these inspections :—

	Dairies.	Bakehouses.
Number inspected	44	15
Orders or recommendations for Sanitary improvements	19	4
Number of orders, &c. which have been or are being executed	16	4

Measles were very prevalent in many localities during the year and the schools were closed in the following villages in consequence :—

Blandford St. Mary
Spettisbury
Farnham
Tarrant Keyneston

The school at Turnworth was closed on account of Whooping Cough, and that at Blandford St. Mary for Scarlatina.

With regard to the excrement disposal, the pail and dry earth system has been almost universally adopted.

Housing of the Working Classes.—In many parts of the district there exist some ancient cottages which are objectionable, in that they possess no bedroom with a fire-place. Every dwelling should have three bedrooms, two of which at least should have fire-places. If this were so, morality would be increased, and comfort in sickness much augmented.

Bridport—Mr. W. A. E. Hay.

Area of District.—30,899 acres.

Population.—(1901 census) 6998. Ditto (estimated middle of 1904) 6,900.

Births.—Registered 125, equal to a rate of 18·1 per 1,000.

Deaths.—Registered 84, equal to a rate of 12·11 per 1,000.

Average Age at Death.—60·9.

Zymotic Rate.—·14 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality.—47·6 per 1,000.

Prevalence of Disease and Notification.—

Diphtheria	3
Membranous Croup	1
Erysipelas	1
Scarlet Fever	24
Enteric ,,	1

The cases of Diphtheria occurred at Askerswell and Loders. Two were removed to the Isolation Hospital, the other was treated at home.

The case of Membranous Croup occurred at Walditch, it was treated at home and died soon after notification.

The case of Erysipelas requires no comment.

The 24 Scarlet Fever cases occurred at Bradpole and Charmouth. Fifteen cases were treated in the Isolation Hospital. In all cases where proper isolation and treatment could not be carried out I advised removal to the Isolation Hospital, and I consider it very satisfactory that it was confined to those villages and the other parts of the district escaped the infection.

The case of Enteric Fever occurred at Broadoak, it was caused by pollution of drinking water which was condemned and a fresh supply obtained from a distance. The case was removed to the Isolation Hospital.

In the event of Infectious Disease occurring in farm houses, dairy houses or houses where milk or butter is supplied, none is allowed to be sent until the premises are free from infection.

Schools.—On account of an epidemic of Influenza the Schools (day and Sunday) were closed for three weeks, from March the 2nd, at Swyre.

On account of Measles for three weeks, from March 12th, at Litton Cheney.

On account of Measles for three weeks, from May the 10th, at Shipton Gorge.

On account of Measles for three weeks, from May the 29th, at Burton Bradstock, on the expiration of that time closure was prolonged for another week.

On account of an epidemic of Scarlet Fever for one month, from December the 23rd, at Charmouth.

Water Supply.—Much attention has been given to this. All new houses erected in the district require a certificate of water supply (suitable and sufficient) before occupation.

Charmouth and Chideock supplies. The annual analysis of the waters proved them as usual excellent for dietetic use.

Analyses of waters have been made in eight other cases. 1. Of a new well at Loders, in which the water was found of moderate organic purity, was closed. 2. At Eype, a new well, the water was found of very doubtful organic purity, but on new working the water in this well proved fit for dietetic use. 3. At West Road, Symondsbury, the water in a well was of a doubtful organic purity, it was condemned for dietetic use and a supply obtained elsewhere. Five wells at Broadoak in which the water proved unfit for dietetic were condemned. A good supply has been obtained from a spring at a distance.

Sewerage and Drainage.—Excrement Disposal—Sewerage and Drainage is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and I append a summary of the work carried out during the year. As occasion requires your especial attention is drawn to these matters at your monthly meetings.

Excrement Disposal—By means of privies, earth closets and water closets.

Isolation Hospital.—Means for Disinfection, &c. The Isolation Hospital is fully equipped, it has four separate wards, a nurse-matron and porter in charge, an ambulance for the removal of patients from their homes to the Hospital, a disinfector is on the premises for the use of the Hospital and District.

Disinfection is carried out under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector by Formalin and Sulphur Fumigation. Washing walls, furniture, etc., with a 1 per 1,000 Sublimate Solution. The infected rooms are lime washed. All the suitable disinfectants are supplied by the Council. Bed, bedding, clothes, &c., are disinfected within the Hospital Disinfector, if not destroyed.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Are fairly good and I believe up to the average of similar Rural Districts.

There are no *Common Lodging Houses* in the District.

With respect to *Slaughter Houses, Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops*, Bye-laws are in force in the District, and their condition reported by myself and Sanitary Inspector at your monthly meetings as required.

The condition of *Bakehouses* are satisfactory and there are no underground ones.

There is no registered list of *Workshops*, but the accommodation and arrangements I have found satisfactory.

The Factory Act does not much affect the district, but I found the general condition of the factories satisfactory. The means of escape in case of fire well regulated and the sanitary conveniences suitable and sufficient.

Cerne—Mr. E. E. Dalton.

Area.—This is 46,744 acres.

Population.—The census of 1901 was 5,064, and estimated to the middle of 1905 to be 4,618.

Births.—The total number of births registered in my district for 1905 was 113 (61 males and 52 females), giving a birth-rate of 24·6 per 1 000 of the estimated population. This is an increase of nearly 4 per 1000 on that of 1904. The average birth-rate for the previous ten years was 22·1.

Deaths.—The registered deaths at all ages totalled 57 (31 males and 26 females), equal to a death-rate of 12·34 per 1000. This is an increase of 10 on the previous year, which was exceptionally low. The average for the previous ten years was 13·9 per 1000.

Average age at death.—This was a good one, being 56 years, comparing with the previous year of 54·3.

The ages at which death occurred were :—

Under 1 year	7
1 and under 5 years	2
5 ,, 15 ,, ...	—
15 ,, 25 ,, ...	1
25 ,, 65 ,, ...	12
Over 65 years	35
	57

Of those over 65 years of age, 26 were over 70, and 11 over 80, and 1 over 90.

The deaths were certified as due to the following causes :—

Diarrhœa	1
Enteritis	1
Puerperal Fever	1
Phthisis	2
Other tubercular diseases	1
Cancer Malignant Disease	2
Pneumonia	3
Heart Disease	5
Accidents	1
All other causes	40
	57

The deaths certified as due to old age were 29, and 6 deaths occurred in the Workhouse at an average age of 70·5.

Zymotic Mortality.—This was only one, namely, from diarrhœa, which gives the low rate of 0·2 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 0.63 the previous year.

Infantile Mortality.—The rate of infantile mortality—measured by the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age with per 1,000 births registered—was 61·94, which was very low. The previous year was 81·6.

Prevalence of Disease—Notification.—I had 13 cases notified to me under this heading. Scarlet fever, 3 cases; typhoid fever, 2; diphtheria, 2 and erysipelas 6. The cases were scattered over the whole of the wide district under my care, and were not due to local conditions. The diphtheria and one case of typhoid fever, and one case of scarlet fever were undoubtedly brought into the district from outside infection, and by early attention and isolation in every case the disease was prevented from becoming epidemic. It was only necessary to close two schools in the whole of the district during the year, and then only for very short periods, namely, 14 days each ; they were the Catistock and Pulham schools, and both were closed for influenza.

Water Supply.—The supply for this district is much the same as in previous years, being derived from wells and springs, and, taken together, must be considered fairly satisfactory. Improvements, I consider, have been made where necessary to render them pure and to keep them up to as good a standard as possible.

Sewerage and Drainage, Excrement Disposal.—In this hilly and scattered hamlet district we have no regular system of drainage. In every case where a privy or vault was likely to be a nuisance it has been converted to the pail system with earth as considered necessary.

Housing of the Working Classes.—This can be considered fairly good, as, with the depopulation of a rural district, more houses are available for occupation, and in consequence the bad ones and those expensive to keep in repair are vacated and allowed to fall, or are taken down by the owners. In the parish of Nether Cerne much improvement has been made by replacing some of the old houses with new and better dwellings and thoroughly renovating the others.

Dairies, Cowsheds, Milkshops, etc.—These again during the year have been properly inspected and reported on where any milk-selling, either in a wholesale or retail manner, is carried on, and they are now in a fairly good and sanitary condition, and in my district the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order of 1885 is enforced.

Factory and Workshops, Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses.—Notices have been regularly given and enforced where necessary, to have these places properly whitewashed. We have no common lodging houses in the district and workshops very few in number. I have had no reason to complain of any of them during the year.

In conclusion I would respectfully point to the detailed summary of the inspections made of the premises in the district, together with the amendments made, and other work carried out to render the district in a good sanitary condition, and from my own personal inspection in daily visiting some part of the whole, I think I may congratulate the Council on the very satisfactory state of affairs in the district under their care and control.

Dorchester (Eastern).—Dr. E. J. Day.

Area.—27,413 acres (in 1900, when the Borough of Dorchester was extended 1,082 acres were added to it from this Sanitary Division, as well as the Workhouse).

Population.—In 1901 when the census was taken the population was found to be 3,895, and the inhabited houses 926—an average of 4 persons to a house. The average annual decrease was 105 from the 1891 census to that taken in 1901. Although many of the villages may still be decreasing a little owing to migration to the towns, the population may fairly be taken at 4,000, as several new cottages have been of late erected.

Births.—The total number of births was 95 (males 45, females 50) against 73 in 1904, giving a birth-rate of 23·7 per 1,000; in 1903 the number was 95; in 1902, 61; in 1901, 96; in 1900. 110; in 1899, 133; in 1898, 27; in 1897, 197; in 1896, 128; in 1895, 124; in 1894, 119; in 1893, 116 and in 1892, 130. This birth-rate 23·7 is rather lower than that for England and Wales (27·2 per 1,000) which is ·7 per 1,000 below the rate in 1904 (speaking still of England and Wales) and lower than the rate in any other year on record, compared with the average in the ten years 1895-1904, the birth-rate in 1905 shows a decrease of 1·8 per 1,000.

Deaths.—The total number of deaths registered was 54, but 8 more deaths occurred amongst people belonging to this division who had gone for treatment into Public Institutions outside it, making the total number of deaths 62, this gives a death-rate of 15·5 compared with 9 in 1904 (at this very low figure it could not be expected that the death-rate would remain), in 1903 it was 11·4 per 1,000; the death-rate for England and Wales in 1905 was 15·2, practically the same as for this Sanitary Division, this death-rate, still speaking of England and Wales, is 1 per 1,000 below the rate in 1904 and lower than the rate in any other year on record and compared with the average rate in the ten years 1895-1904 the death-rate in 1905 shows a decrease of 2 per 1,000.

Average age at death.—The average age at death was 52, against 48 in 1904 and 1903, 46 in 1902, 44 in 1901, and 47 in 1900; this is indeed most satisfactory.

The following is the death-rate since my appointment in 1878:—

1878	17·4	1879	22·2	1880	17·2
1881	15·4	1882	15	1883	16·4
1884	12·4	1885	16·5	1886	15·8
1887	11·8	1888	17	1889	10·9
1890	10·8	1891	12·6	1892	14·2
1893	11·6	1894	11·8	1895	13·8
1896	14·3	1897	13·6	1898	9·8
1899	12·4	1900	10·1	1901	14·1
1902	17	1903	11·4	1904	9
1905	15·5				

The following are particulars of the eight deaths which occurred outside the division amongst persons belonging thereto:—

Sex.	Age.	Former Residence.	Cause.
M	41	West Stafford	Brain disease
M	66	Dewlish	Paralysis
M	88	Stinsford	Old age
F	32	Piddlehinton	Pneumonia
M	63	Whitcombe	Heart disease
M	78	Warmwell	,,
F	32	Dewlish	Kidney disease
F	49	Puddletown	Pneumonia

No death was due to Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, Diphtheria, Croup, Typhus Fever, Enteric Fever, Influenza, Cholera, Plague, nor Diarrhœa. The principal causes of the deaths were, Cancer and Bronchitis 6 each, Heart Disease 4, Premature Birth 3, Pneumonia 2. This cancer death-rate 1·5 per 1,000 is just double what it was in the previous year, the neighbouring county of Somerset was stated in 1904 to have the highest death-rate from this disease, namely 1·3 per 1,000. On the other hand the Consumption death-rate is only ·25 per 1,000, against ·5 in 1904, this is very satisfactory. The following table shows at a glance how this district compares with the rest of England and Wales: –

	Birth-rate per 1,000 (1)	Death-rate per 1,000 (2)	Principal Epidemic Diseases, Cols. 4 to 10· (3)	Smallpox (4)	Measles (5)	Scarlet Fever (6)	Diphtheria (7)	Whooping Cough (8)	Fever (9)	Diarrhœa (10)	Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 births (11)
England and Wales	27·2	15·2	1·52		·32	·11	·16	·25	·09	·59	128
76 Great Towns	28·2	15·7	1·88		·39	·13	·16	·29	·08	·83	140
141 Smaller ,,	26·9	14·4	1·5		·31	·11	·15	·23	·13	·57	132
England and Wales, less the 217 towns	26·3	14·9	1·09		·24	·09	·15	·2	·09	·32	113
This Division, 1896	23·2	14·3	3·1		·54	1·9	—	·54		·18	140
,, 1897	21·5	13·6	·16		·16		—	—		—	107
,, 1898	20·3	9·6	·16		—		·16	—		—	31
,, 1899	20·4	12·4	·3		—			—		·3	112
,, 1900	16·9	10·1	Nil		—			—		—	90
,, 1901	24·6	14·1	·52		·26			—		·26	104
,, 1902	16	17	·52		·26			·26			97
,, 1903	21	11·4	Nil					—			126
,, 1904	19·4	9	·25					·25			81
,, 1905	23·7	15·5	Nil								105

Zymotic Death-rate.—The zymotic death-rate was "Nil" against ·25 in 1904. The following are particulars of four deaths of importance from a sanitary point of view:—Three in 1904, six in 1903, twelve in 1902, and ten in 1901:—

Locality.	Sex.	Age.	Cause.
Warmwell	M	1 month	Enteritis
Puddletown	F	23	Puerperal Fever
West Knighton	M	84	Erysipelas
Broadmayne	F	18	Phthisis

The rate of infant mortality (measured by the number of deaths under one year per 1,000 births) was 105, against 81 in 1904, and 126 in 1903; the rate for England and Wales in 1905 was 128.

Infantile deaths.—The following are particulars of the 10 deaths under one year of age:—

Locality.	Sex.	Age.	Cause.
Warmwell	M	1 month	Enteritis
West Knighton	F	7 months	Pneumonia
Tolpuddle	M	10 days	Debility
,,	F	2 days	Premature birth
West Knighton	F	1 day	,,
Puddletown	F	11 months	Bronchitis
Warmwell	M	7 months	Marasmus
West Stafford	M	30 minutes	,,
Dewlish	F	1 month	Premature birth
Puddletown	M	6 months	Convulsions

Child mortality.—The rate of child mortality, measured by the number of deaths of children over one year of age but under , per 1,000 births was "Nil," against 13·6 in 1904, 10·5 in 1903, and 65 in 1902.

Infectious illness.—The following 8 cases of Infectious Illness were notified:—

Date.	Sex.	Age.	Locality.	Disease.
April 11th	M	76	West Knighton	Erysipelas
August 26th	F	4	Dewlish	Scarlet Fever
August 27th	F	3	Dewlish	,,
August 27th	M	9	West Stafford	,,
September 3rd	M	12	Dewlish	,,
September 24th	M	35	Broadmayne	Erysipelas
October 10th	F	23	Puddletown	Puerperal Fever
December 31st	F	44	West Stafford	Erysipelas

Water Supply.—No complaints have been received of the quality of the water supply.

Earth System.—Moule's Earth Closets are used to a considerable extent and seem to act very well. There is absolutely no means of isolating infectious diseases, consequently it was impossible to keep the case of Scarlet Fever at Dewlish from spreading to two other inmates. The Authorities of the Borough Isolation Hospital adjoining this division decline to accept patients from the rural districts.

The Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses have been regularly whitewashed (there are only 6 bakehouses—none being underground).

Factory Act.—There are no out-workers, and only seven workshops and five work-places. All these were found on visitation to be in a sanitary condition; consequently it was not necessary to issue any summonses, no defects having been found.

Comparing the year with 1904, the following are the chief matters for congratulation:—

1.—The average age at death raised from 48 to 52 years.

2.—The death-rate from Epidemic Diseases (·25) reduced to "Nil."

3.—The death-rate from Consumption reduced 50 per cent.—only one patient having succumbed to this fell disease—which is very satisfactory.

Dorchester (Western)—Mr. W. Rendall.

Area of District.—37,045 acres.

Population (1901 census).—5,497. Estimated to middle of 1905, 6,130,

Births.—The births registered were 94, giving a birth-rate of 15·3 per 1000. The average birth-rate of the preceding ten years being 18.

Deaths.—The deaths registered were 140, and of this number 75 occurred at the County Asylum amongst persons not belonging to this division and should be left out in estimating the normal death-rate. This would give a death-rate of 10·6 per 1,000. Including the 75 deaths the death-rate is 22·8 per 1,000.

The average death-rate for the preceding ten years, including the deaths at the County Asylum, is 18; leaving them out, 10. The average age at death of the 65 deaths belonging to this division is 44; leaving out the deaths under the age of one year, 56.

The average age at death of the 75 non-residents is 56.

Zymotic Death-rate.—Nil.

Cause of death.—Of the 65 deaths which occurred in this division—

13 are due to Heart Disease.
7 ,, Bronchitis
6 ,, premature birth
5 ,, Phthisis
3 ,, other tubercular diseases
3 ,, Cancer
2 ,, Pneumonia
1 ,, Enteritis
1 ,, Whooping-cough
1 ,, Croup
1 ,, Alcoholism
1 ,, Accident
1 ,, Suicide
20 to other causes

Infantile Mortality.—Fourteen infants died under the age of 1 year, giving a death-rate of 140·8 per 1,000 births registered. The cause of death being—

6 cases due to Premature Birth
2 ,, Bronchits
1 ,, Enteritisi
1 ,, Tubercular Disease, and
2 to other causes not mentioned in Table IV.

Infectious Disease.—There were 7 cases notified to me during the year—2 cases of erysipelas (one at Charminster and the other at Bradford Peverell), one case of scarlet fever at Littlebredy, one case of enteric fever at Charminster, and 3 cases of diphtheria (one at Bradford Peverell, and two at Toller Porcorum. The Bradford Peverell case was, I believe, due to a defective soil pipe, and the two cases at Toller Porcorum were contracted at the village school at Hooke, where several cases of diphtheria had recently occurred.

All these cases were isolated in their own homes, no death occurred, and the disease did not spread.

In January, an epidemic of measles occurred in the villages of Winterborne Steepleton and Winterborne Abbas, and in consequence the village school was closed for three weeks.

Water Supply.—By frequent inspections the different supplies have been kept in a satisfactory state. There has been no deficiency, and no case of illness has been traceable to any impurities, The public supply in the village of Maiden Newton, although expensive, is very much appreciated, being sufficient in quantity and of excellent quality.

General Sanitary Work.—A detailed account of the work done during the year is appended, by which it will be seen that many minor matters usually met with in a rural district have been dealt with, and it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings.

Housing of the Working Classes.—No case of overcrowding has come under my notice during the year, and in many villages there are empty cottages. In some of the larger villages defective cottages are to be found, but in the smaller ones, where the cottages belong to the farmers and are occupied by their labourers, they are quite satisfactory.

Dairy Yards.—Considerable attention has been paid to them during the year, but situated, as many of them are, in the centre of the villages, they are necessarily at times offensive, and a nuisance to the people living near. The chief trouble being caused by imperfect drainage and accumulations of manure

Sewerage, Drainage, and Excrement Disposal.—Are, on the whole, as satisfactory as circumstances will permit. Defects are from time to time remedied, and improvements made whenever possible.

Factory Act, 1901.—During the year 28 inspections have been made, but it has not been found necessary to serve notices or to institute proceedings.

Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses have been inspected and found satisfactory.

General Remarks.—A fairly satisfactory year in all respects.

Poole—Dr. W. T. Gardner Robinson.

Area.—The area of the whole district is 17,353 acres (exclusive of area covered by water), made up as follows :—

	Acres.
Canford Magna	7,846
Kinson	2,769
Lytchett Minster	3,325
Lytchett Matravers	3,413
	17,353

Population.—The population of the district according to the census of 1901 was 4,779. The estimated population at the middle of 1905 was 5,047.

The number of inhabited houses at the census of 1901 was 1,081, the average number of persons per house being 4·4.

Birth-rate.—The total number of births during the year was 128—84 males and 44 females. The average rate per 1,000 of the population was 25; the average for the previous decennial period being 28·3. The Lytchett parishes had a total of 33 births, 27 of these being males to only 6 females.

Death-rate.—The total number of deaths for the year was 56—26 being males and 30 females. The general death-rate was 11 per 1,000. The average age at death was 45·7 years. The infantile death-rate was 62·5 per 1,000 births registered. The zymotic death-rate was ·2 per 1,000, being 1 death for the whole district. This occurred at Kinson from Diphtheria.

The principal causes of death were :

	Deaths.		
Tuberculosis..	10—	equal to 2	per 1,000
Heart Diseases	10	,, 2	,,
Cancer	6	,, 1·2	,,
Pneumonia	5	,, 1	,,

Infant Mortality.—The number of deaths of infants under 1 year was 8—1 being from premature birth and 2 from convulsions.

Zymotic Diseases.—The number of notifications received was 28 :—

Smallpox	1	
Diphtheria .. .	19	—1 death.
Scarlet Fever	6	
Erysipelas	2	
	28	

11 from Canford Magna, 12 from Kinson and 5 from Lytchett Minster.

Smallpox.—One case was notified at Wallis Down in April, and removed to hospital. Every means were taken to prevent the disease spreading. No further cases occurred.

Diphtheria.—Nineteen notifications of this disease were received during the year, all from Canford Magna and Kinson. Thirteen cases were removed to hospital during the epidemic in the spring. The Canford schools were closed from June 21st for 14 days. Two mild cases occurred in October, one in Kinson and one in Canford, the latter due to direct contact with the Kinson one. No cause was discovered to account for the spring outbreak. In all cases thorough disinfection by Formalin was carried out.

Scarlet Fever.—Six cases were notified, all of a mild character. Two were removed to hospital owing to lack of proper accommodation for thorough isolation. All were thoroughly disinfected by Formalin.

Erysipelas.—Two cases were notified of an ordinary mild type.

Water Supply.—The same conditions as to source and distribution exist as in 1904.

Sewerage and Drainage.—In this district there is none.

Excrement Disposal.—Mainly carried out by the dry earth system and by cesspool. Several of the former, inspected at different parts of the district, were carried out in a satisfactory manner.

Housing of the Working Classes.—No cases of insanitary dwellings were reported.

Slaughter and Bake Houses.—On the whole are in good condition and have been duly inspected.

Isolation Hospital.—Has been taken over by the Poole Town Council since the 9th November, 1905. In accordance with resolutions passed by the Rural District Council at their meetings held on the 27th January, 1905, and 8th February, 1905, it was agreed to hand over the hospital on the understanding that the Town Council take over the loan outstanding, and also agree to take all patients in perpetuity at the following rate of maintenance :—One pound per week, including medical attendance, also to receive smallpox patients at the same rate.

Ten patients were admitted during the year, the average stay being about 29 days.

In conclusion, I would congratulate the Council on the satisfactory condition of the district generally, and the remarkable immunity from notifiable diseases during my four months tenure of office ; and I wish to express my thanks to the Inspector, Mr. Barnes, for his unvarying courtesy to myself, and willingness at all times to carry out my wishes and the instructions of the Council.

Shaftesbury.—Mr. J. Duncan Walker.

Area of district.—41,105 Acres.

Population.—(1901 Census) 10,928.

Occupation.—Principally agricultural.

Births.—The number of births registered during the year was 219, giving a birth-rate of 20·04 per 1,000 of the population. The number of births and rate per 1,000 for the previous 5 years were as follows :—

In 1904	229	or rate of	20·95	per 1,000
1903	238	,,	21·6	,,
1902	240	,,	21·96	,,
1901	230	,,	21	,,
1900	241	,,	20·36	,,

The number of births registered during the year as will be seen by the foregoing table is ten less than the previous year and the lowest for the past ten years, except in 1899 when it was only 214.

The number of births in the different districts were as follows :—

1905	Shaftesbury ..	45	1904 ..	50
,,	Fontmell ..	34	,, ..	40
,,	Gillingham ..	140	,, ..	135

This shows a decrease of 5 in the Shaftesbury District and 6 in the Fontmell District, but an increase of 5 in the Gillingham District.

Deaths. - The total number of deaths registered for the Rural District during the year was 144, giving a death-rate of 13·17 per 1,000 of the population.

The following table shows the numbers and rate for the previous 5 years :—

1904	136	12·45 per 1,000
1903	148	13·54 ,,
1902	159	14·90 ,,
1901	132	11·14 ,,
1900	132	11·14 ,,

The deaths show an increase of 8 on the previous year.

The deaths registered for the various months of 1905 were as follows :—

January	15	July	11
February	11	August	12
March	13	September	9
April	11	October	12
May	14	November	14
June	14	December	9

The number of deaths in each district were as follows :—

Shaftesbury	36
Fontmell	22
Gillingham	86

Of these deaths 9 died in the Union Workhouse, the sum total of their ages being 711 years, giving an average age at death of 79 years.

The average age at death for the whole district for the year was 54 years. Of these deaths :—

26	(or 59·7 per cent.)	were over the age of 60 years
70	(or 48·6 per cent.)	,, ,, 70 ,,
30	(or 20·8 per cent.)	,, ,, 80 ,,
5	(or 3·47 per cent.)	,, ,, 90 ,,

One of the last mentioned dying at the age of 105 years.

The chief causes of death were as follows :—

Measles	1
Whooping Cough	1
Diphtheria	3
Epidemic Influenza	2
Enteritis	8
Phthisis	10
Other Tubercular Diseases	3
Cancer	7
Bronchitis	5
Pneumonia	8
Cirrhosis of Liver	1
Premature Birth	3
Heart Diseases	32
Accidents	3
Senile Decay	41
Nephritis	4
Other causes	12
	144

The age distribution of these deaths are as follows :—

Under 1 year of age	17
One year and under 5 years	9
5 years ,, 15 ,,	5
15 years ,, 25 ,,	5
25 years ,, 65 ,,	28
65 years and upwards	80

Infantile Mortality.—The number of children dying under one year of age was 17.

The causes of these Infantile Deaths were as follows :—

Enteritis	1
Premature Birth	3
Congenital Defects	2
Debility, &c.	3
Ricketts	1
Bronchitis	1
Pneumonia	4

Of these 17 Infantile Deaths 16 were certified and 1 uncertified.

The age distribution of these deaths were as follows :—

Under 1 week	4
Between 2 and 3 weeks	1
,, 3 and 4 ,,	2
,, 1 and 2 months	2
,, 3 and 4 ,,	3
,, 4 and 5 ,,	1
,, 7 and 8 ,,	1
,, 8 and 9 ,,	2
,, 9 and 10 ,,	1

Prevalence of Disease—Notification:—The number of cases notified during the year was 48, namely :—

Smallpox	1
Diphtheria	36
Scarlet Fever	6
Erysipelas	5

The cases notified in each locality were as follows :—

Shaftesbury Rural	1
Fontmell	35
Gillingham	12

There was an outbreak of Diphtheria in the parish of Iwerne Minster, in the Fontmell District. The outbreak was of a serious nature from the number of cases, but fortunately were of a mild type. There was a history of sore throat amongst the school children for some time before the character of the outbreak was recognised, and it was only after some cases developed a more serious character that medical assistance was called in, and the disease diagnosed.

There is no doubt a great many mild cases unattended by a medical man escape notification.

The disease arising chiefly amongst the children attending school pointed to the school being the probable source of trouble. An examination of the drainage in and around the school brought to light a very defective state of things. A drain close to the school playground from a farm-yard, provided with gratings for the surface water, was untrapped. An old disused stone drain was also found under one of the schoolrooms into which some drainage from the school water closets had found its way owing to a defective drain.

On the character of the outbreak being recognised the schools were at once closed, and the whole of the drainage system in and around put in a thorough sanitary condition.

With the view of checking the disease, handbills were posted in the village and neighbourhood giving directions as to isolating and preventing its spread. The Rural District Council also allowed a liberal supply of disinfectants to infected houses, free of charge.

Several cases, where the accommodation was bad, were removed and treated at the Blandford Isolation Hospital.

The case of Smallpox was that of a man who came to Gillingham from Whitstable for a holiday and developed the disease two days after his arrival on the 28th of December, 1905. He has been removed to the Rural District Isolation Cottage on Fowel Hill. The patient had been twice vaccinated.

Water Supply.—The water supply is fairly good throughout the whole of the rural district. It is obtained for the most part from wells, and as a rule the supply is plentiful.

Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses have been frequently inspected throughout the year, and have generally been found in a satisfactory condition.

Housing of the Working Classes.—There has been very little over-crowding in this district, only two cases having been dealt with throughout the year. The supply of cottages is generally equal to the demand.

Isolation.—The Rural District Council rent a cottage on Fowel Hill, near Shaftesbury, which is always held ready for any emergency, and is at present occupied by the smallpox case already referred to. It would, however, at the most only be able to accommodate two patients.

Anthrax.—Only one case occurred in the district throughout the year.

Sanitary Work.—A table dealing with the sanitary work undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector is appended,

Excrement disposal.—Mainly carried out by cesspools and the dry earth system.

Sherborne—Mr. W. H. Williams.

Area of the District.—37,482 acres.

Population (census 1901).—5,783. Population estimated to middle of 1905, 6,019.

Occupation.—Agriculture and glove making.

Births.—During the year 1905, 134 births have been registered in the district, 55 males and 79 females, being 14 more than last year.

Deaths.—79 deaths have been registered, 30 males and 49 females, being 9 more than last year. Four of these deaths were uncertified. Making an increase of population during the year of 55.

Birth and Death Rates.—This gives a birth-rate of 22·26, and a death-rate of 11·11 per 1,000 population.

The average age at death is 52·79.

Prevalence of Disease.—There have been epidemics of scarlet fever and measles. Forty-nine cases of scarlet fever were notified during the year—4 at Yetminster, 6 at Lillington, 10 at Trent, 6 at Bishops Caundle, 15 at Castleton, 4 at Holwell, 3 at Princes Place, and 1 at Compton. One case of Typhoid occurred at Yetminster.

The elementary schools were closed in the various parishes for some weeks. One death only from measles occurred during these epidemics.

Causes of Death.—There have been 18 deaths from heart disease, 9 from bronchitis, 3 from phthisis, 7 from cancer, 1 from pneumonia, 1 the result of accident.

Ages at death.—Twenty-five of the deaths were of persons over the age of 70 years—8 males and 17 females. Of these, one female reached the age of 90 years, and 10, viz., 2 males and 8 females, exceeded 80 years.

Infantile Mortality.—Eight of the deaths were under one year, giving an infant mortality rate of 64·17 per 1,000 births.

The following table epitomises the ages at which the deaths occurred throughout the district:—

Deaths under 1 year	8
,, over 1 year and under 5	3
,, ,, 5 ,, 15	2
,, ,, 15 ,, 25	2
,, ,, 25 ,, 65	28
,, from 65 upwards	36
	79

Prevalence of Disease.—The Notification Act adopted in March, 1890, continues to work satisfactorily. During the year 56 cases of Infectious Disease were reported, viz., 49 cases of scarlet fever, one case of typhoid fever, and 6 cases of erysipelas. The cases of scarlet fever were of a mild type and no death occurred.

The Zymotic Rate for the year 1905 is 9·33 per 1,000 population.

The Infectious Hospital, which you share with the Urban District Council, is not of much service to the Rural District. During the year only four cases of scarlet fever have been admitted, the other cases being crowded out by cases from the Urban District; in addition to which the state of things which I reported to you last year have not been remedied. There still being no accommodation for the nurse and caretaker, consequently one ward has to be used for their accommodation which otherwise would be available for patients. This condition of things should be altered without more delay, as the usefulness of the Institution is greatly hindered. An apparatus for the disinfection of bedding and clothing is provided.

Water Supply.—This is in the same condition as in former years; there has not been a deficiency this year. Three houses have been provided with fresh water supply.

Pollution of River.—The Yeo is still polluted at Darkhole by the Sherborne untreated effluent, and the Sherborne Urban District Council are still engaged, as they have been for very many years, in considering the subject.

Sewerage, Drainage and Excrement Disposal.—One house has been provided with new drains. In six the drains have been repaired.

The Housing of the Working Classes.—Three cases of overcrowded houses have been dealt with. Thirty houses have been disinfected after infectious illness.

Sturminster Newton—Dr. J. Comyns Leach.

In submitting this my thirtieth annual report for your consideration I beg again to thank you for your continued support in the efforts I have made towards the improvement of the health and sanitary state of this district, and I have again the pleasure of reporting satisfactorily on its condition during the year 1905.

Area of the District.—39,342 acres.

Population (1901 census).—8,804. Estimated to middle of 1905, 8,660.

Births.—The births registered during 1905 were 181, of these 83 were males, and 98 females; the average number of births of the preceding 10 years was 202.

Birth-rate.—This rate works out at 20·9 per 1,000 persons living, as against the decennial average of 22·5 and 26·3, being that of Rural England and Wales, this last being the lowest on record. This constantly falling birth-rate has been the subject of much discussion of late, but no reliable remedy has been proposed.

Natural Increase of Population.—The births exceeded the deaths by 44 and this figure represents the so-called natural increase of population, which is, however, a most unreliable statistic as to the real increase of population—so many contributing causes having to be taken into consideration.

Deaths.—The number of deaths registered from all causes during the year 1905 was 137, as compared with the decennial average of 137·8, of these 58 were male and 79 females.

Death Rate.—This rate, calculated at per 1,000 persons living, and taking the population of our district to be 8,660, was 15·8, being ·5 higher than the decennial average of 15·3, and also higher than that for Rural England and Wales, viz., 14·9, which I think must be the lowest yet recorded. Of the 137 deaths, 81 were registered as having died at over 65 years of age and 18 as under 1 year of age, leaving 38 to be accounted for as dying between the ages of 1 and 65.

Infantile Mortality.—This rate, measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to births registered, is 93·9, being almost exactly the same as the average for the last ten years, which was 94, but less than that for Rural England and Wales, which was 113 per 1,000 births.

Average age at death.—58 years.

Zymotic Mortality.—This rate again is very low, viz., ·34 per 1,000, whereas the deaths from the seven chief epidemic diseases in the rural districts of England and Wales were at the rate of 1·09 per 1,000 or just over three times our mortality. All the 3 deaths so registered were due to whooping-cough, which has been rather prevalent in the district, especially in the parishes of Shillingstone, Stalbridge, Okeford Fitzpaine and Lydlinch. The fatal cases were those of children aged 8 months, 9 months, and 2 years respectively.

Notification of Infectious Diseases.—Ten cases only were notified during 1905, viz., 5 from diphtheria, 2 from scarlet fever and 3 from Erysipelas Of the 5 cases of diphtheria, 3 occurred at Stalbridge, 1 at Marnhull, and 1 at Shillingstone ; they were all mild cases and there was no death. In all the cases isolation was able to be strictly carried out and no further case occurred. All the houses were disinfected after the recovery from the disease, and all were evidently due to serious sanitary defects which have been remedied. Of the two cases of scarlet fever one occurred at Lydlinch, and one at Sturminster Common ; both were mild cases and recovered. Disinfection was again carried out in both instances after the recovery.

Phthisis.—Seven deaths were registered as due to consumption, 3 of the cases occurred in persons over 65 years of age, and 3 between the ages of 25 and 65 years. The year before only 4 cases were so registered, and in each of the years 1902 and 1903 seven cases occurred. There is no doubt that the mortality from this disease is generally decreasing owing to the new methods of open air treatment now everywhere adopted

Water Supplies.—The chief work under this heading has been done at Sturminsier Newton, where, during the past year, a serious shortage in the present always inadequate supply has existed. Your Committee has been untiring in their efforts to press forward the matter of a good water supply. Mr. Coombs, your Engineer, has drawn up an excellent scheme, the Local Government Board Inspector has made an exhaustive enquiry, and, after several months, the Local Government Board at the time of writing, in consequence of his report and conditional to a few alterations being made, have practically sanctioned the scheme, so that I trust we may soon see the work commenced and the so long desired and so much needed supply brought to the town of Sturminster Newton.

Schools have been closed in Lydlinch in consequence of an outbreak of whooping-cough ; in Shillingstone through the great prevalence of the same disease, and in Stalbridge, Marnhull and Childe Okeford for measles.

Factory Acts.—One case only has been brought to my notice, viz., one of overcrowding in a dressmaker's workroom at Sturminster, but satisfactory arrangements were made for its abatement.

Sanitary.—By your Inspector's book I find that, in all, 37 nuisances have been brought to your notice and all remedied or abated without recourse to legal proceedings. Disinfection after infectious disease has been carried out by your Inspector in 5 cases.

I have made myself acquainted as far as possible with the conditions affecting the public health in this district.

Wareham.—Mr. K. J. Courtenay.

Area.—The district comprises 93,098 acres.

Population.—The population, according to the Census of 1901, was 10,574, and to the middle of 1905 is estimated at 10,500, a gradual reduction.

Birth-rate.—There were 250 births during the year—an increase of 12 on last year—giving a rate of 23.8 per 1,000, compared with 22·6 per 1,000 in 1904.

Death-rate.—There were 143 deaths registered, including 10 which occurred in the Workhouse, giving a death-rate of 13·6 per 1,000, a slight increase on the previous year. The average age at death was 52 years 8 months.

Zymotic disease.—Three deaths occurred from zymotic disease.

Infant Mortality.—There were 14 deaths of infants under one year, giving a death rate of 56 per 1,000, a decrease on last year.

General.—There were 14 deaths from Malignant Disease, an increase of two on last year. I am sorry to say malignant disease is increasing each year in this district. 14 Deaths were due to Phthisis and other Tubercular Disease.

Of these deaths there occurred :—

27	from	Heart Disease—a marked increase on last year
11	,,	Pneumonia
8	,,	Bronchitis
5	,,	Premature Birth
5	,,	Accident
4	,,	Other Diseases of the Respiratory Organs
2	,,	Epidemic of Influenza
1	,,	Enteric
1	,,	Measles
3	,,	Enteritis
1	,,	Diphtheria

Of the accidental deaths one was from fracture of the skull and spine; one from a fall of stone, causing dislocation of the neck; one from shock; one in the Workhouse from fractured ribs, complicated by Pneumonia, and one from scald causing sloughing of the thigh.

Notification.—I received 32 certificates under the Notification of Diseases Act, a decrease of 9 on last year The greater number were cases of Scarlet Fever, occurring at Bere Regis, which was visited last year by a similar epidemic. Five cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in Corfe Castle and three in the Swanage district. There were 11 cases of Erysipelas, 8 occurring in Corfe Castle. There were 3 cases of Diphtheria. A fatal case of Enteric, which was complicated by Pneumonia, occurred outside Stoborough. The case of Diphtheria, which was fatal, occurred at Bloxworth and was imported from Farnham, the patient having contracted the disease before his arrival in this district.

Water Supply.—The supply is fairly satisfactory in most districts, but there is still room for improvement in East Lulworth where the supply is by no means good.

Sewage and Drainage.—There is no regular system of drainage in this district but improvements are made as opportunities occur, such as converting vault privies into earth closets.

Cottage Accommodation.—A great improvement is still to be desired, especially in the villages.

Slaughter, Bake, Cow-houses and Dairies.—All these are in a fairly satisfactory state. I have made a general inspection of Dairies, particularly those which sell milk, and in two cases great improvements are necessary, the yards being in a filthy condition and the stalls requiring more attention in cleanliness and ventilation. Both, however, are being remedied.

General.—I have made a systematic inspection of the district with the Sanitary Inspector and paid special visits when necessary. This district is purely agricultural and thinly populated. Several new cottages have been erected and more are being built. They are badly wanted and we are handicapped by having no bye-laws. Owing to the character of the district there is no possibility of having any regular system of drainage, but each case is treated on its merits according to requirements. The Earth Closet System is the only one we can carry out in this district, a system in which we are gradually making progress. The refuse is buried in the soil of the gardens. Naturally in a rural district we have no public scavenger.

The water supply is by no means satisfactory at East Lulworth, but steps are being taken to have this remedied. In most of the district it is fairly satisfactory. A fair number of new wells have been sunk, but at times great trouble and expense have met with no reward. The water is obtained solely from springs and wells, the latter on an average being 25 feet deep.

No lodging-houses or offensive trades are carried on in this district.

Slaughter-houses, Cow-sheds, and Dairies are frequently inspected by the Sanitary Officer and myself and remedies are carried out whenever possible. Nuisances are abated as they arise, and I am pleased to say we have not required the use of the Isolation Hospital.

When houses require disinfection notices are served on the owners through the Clerk, and I see they are carried out. The sanitary condition at the end of the year was most satisfactory.

Weymouth.—Mr. W. Hawkins.

Area of the district.—30,521 acres.

Population.—7,884 for the last census, which is not much increased at the present time.

Births.—The number of births for the year is 184, giving a rate of 23·3 per 1,000.

Deaths.—103. The death-rate is 13·9 per 1,000 and would be less if some of the outsiders were excluded.

The average age at death of persons living in the district is 52 years.

The Zymotic Rate.—(Excluding two strangers, one from Weymouth, who died from Diphtheria in the Borough Isolation Hospital, and a sailor, who died in the Port Sanitary Hospital) is nil.

Infant Mortality.—Thirteen children died under one year of age, giving a rate of 70·6 for every 1,000 of births registered.

Prevalence of Disease, Notification.—Only seven infectious diseases were notified :—

Scarlet Fever	3
Diphtheria	1
Erysipelas	1
Enteric Fever	1
Puerperal Fever	1

Diphtheria.—The patient was a little boy at Abbotsbury. A badly trapped waste pipe was found communicating with the scullery and this was probably the cause. He recovered.

Enteric Fever.—A mild case at Bayard Farm house, probably caused by bad water. I recommended a new supply and this is not yet satisfactory as they have to fetch it from a considerable distance.

Puerperal Fever.—This was a mild case and recovered.

Influenza.—Four deaths are returned as due to influenza.

Water Supply.—Generally good and abundant, but at Bincombe there is a scarcity during the summer months. Last year I mentioned some ten houses at Chickerell near Morn Lodge, depending on a condemned well, this is now remedied and they are well supplied by an extension of the Weymouth main.

Sewage, Drainage and Excrement disposal.—The new Sewerage Works at Wyke answer well, and a large part of the village drain into it.

The sanitary arrangements of many of the houses have been entirely re-organized under the supervision of your Inspector, with new W.C's and properly trapped drains, this must prove a great advantage to the community and it is to be desired that every house be connected up.

The main sewers at Abbotsbury and Elwell Street, Upway have been relaid.

The Isolation Hospital is now in good order the roof having been repaired which was badly needed. It has been of service during the year, two cases of Scarlet Fever having been successfully isolated there.

Housing of the Working Classes.—In some of the villages better cottages are wanted. There was only one case of overcrowding and the family removed to a larger house.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.– There are a large number of Dairies many of them selling milk; these have been inspected and improvements made, but there is still much to be desired in regard to the Cowsheds.

Slaughter-houses and Bakehouses.—These have been inspected during killing and at other times and our recommendations generally complied with.

Factory Act.—There are 28 workshops on the register, consisting of:—

Bakehouses	12
Laundries	2
Carpenters and Builders	8
Smiths	4
Dressmakers	2
	28

and this number may be reduced as little or no outside help is used in some of them.

These have been inspected, the Bakehouses are regularly whitewashed and all have fixed up the Abstract, as required by the Act.

Systematic inspection of the District have been made by your Inspector and myself, and there has been a minimum of infectious disease.

Wimborne and Cranborne—Mr. C. H. Watts Parkinson.

Area.—82,000 acres (about).

Population (1901 census).—13,408. Estimated to middle of 1905, 13,350, or natural increase in 1905, 160.

Births.—323, or 24·1 per 1,000 estimated population.

Infantile Mortality.—24, being 73·3 per 1,000 births.

Deaths.—163 or 12·2 per 1,000, corrected 173 or 12·9.

Average age at death.—49 years and 4 months.

Zymotic Death-rate.—Three deaths from notifiable diseases. 1 scarlet fever (Colehill), 1 diphtheria and 1 enteric (Cranborne); under ·23 per 1,000, but 4 deaths from measles and 2 from whooping-cough were registered, making the total Zymotic Mortality nearly ·7 per 1,000·

WIMBORNE RURAL.

Population (1901 census).—7,576. Estimated to middle of 1905, 7,600.

Births.—184, or 26 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—17, or 80 per 1,000 births.

Deaths Registered.—100, or 13 per 1,000.

Zymotic Mortality.—One death from scarlet fever.

The deaths from phthisis, cancer and bronchitis, &c., have slightly increased and also the Infantile Mortality as compared with the small number last year.

There were 17 deaths under 1 year and 37 over 65.

CRANBORNE RURAL.

Population (1901 census).– 5,832. Estimated to middle of 1905, 5,750.

Births.—125, under 22 per 1,000.

Infantile Mortality.—7, or only 56 per 1,000 births.

Deaths Registered.—63, or under 11 per 1,000.

The births and deaths are both much below the average.

Zymotic Mortality.—2 deaths, 1 diphtheria and 1 enteric.

31 deaths over 65 years.

Five deaths from influenza were registered.

GENERAL REPORT.

The Returns for 1905, although not quite so good as those for 1904, are still above the average. While the deaths and births have increased in the Wimborne Division they have decreased in the Cranborne Division, and this is doubtless due to the fact that the purely agricultural districts are still losing their younger inhabitants, while there is an increase in the more attractive residential district near a railway.

The Infantile Mortality is still satisfactorily low, but there are still too many deaths of premature and ill-developed infants.

ZYMOTIC DISEASES.

Only 47 cases notified during 1905. Thirty-one of these were scarlet fever, 9 diphtheria, 3 erysipclas, 1 enteric, 2 mild enteric or continued fever, and 1 puerperal fever. Three deaths were registered —1 scarlatina, 1 enteric and one diphtheria.

Four deaths from measles, 2 from whooping-cough, and 5 from influenza were also registered.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—There was a very severe epidemic of these diseases in the northern and eastern parishes, and schools were closed at Hinton Martell, Crichel, Witchampton, Cranborne, Gussage, Sturminster Marshall, Shapwick and Handley. This went on for the last four months of the year.

Notification, when these diseases have become epidemic, would be a great expense and hardly justified, but it would be well if the first cases could be notified, as possibly something could then be done to check the outbreak of these milder Zymotics which claim more victims than the notifiable ones.

Scarlet Fever.—Thirty-one cases. 20 in Wimborne and 11 in Cranborne Division, chiefly of a mild type and the only epidemic was at Colehill and Leigh, where there were some unusually severe and 1 fatal case. There were no insanitary conditions to account for these severe cases occurring in an otherwise mild epidemic beyond the fact that the cottage was a somewhat old and not over well-lighted one.

Diphtheria.—Nine cases and one death. Three in the Wimborne and 6 in the Cranborne Division. The cases were all isolated ones and occurred at different times and only one in a house. Any defective condition was attended to but the source could seldom be ascertained. The six Cranborne cases were in or near Alderholt and one of these died. The water supply of this district is not very satisfactory and there is a difficulty from the clay soil.

Enteric.—A case of reported typhoid at Alderholt. The diagnosis was difficult and the patient died. No local cause could be found and the disease was believed to have been imported from outside. Two cases of enteric of a mild type, resembling the so called continued fever, were reported in the Wimborne Division. Th premises were overhauled and any defect rectified.

Puerperal Fever.—A case in the Wimborne Division. The woman recovered. The nurse was stopped attending any other cases until fear of infection had passed.

Ophthalmia.—There was an extensive outbreak at St. Giles of a very infectious character and rapid spread, probably of a catarrhal nature and allied to influenza. The symptoms came on rapidly after exposure to infection and continued if untreated from a week to a fortnight, but were cut short by mild and septic treatment. The school was closed and disinfected.

Smallpox.—I received a notification that a family living in my District had been visiting a relative suffering from Smallpox and then lying ill in a neighbouring town. I visited at once with the District Medical Officer and by my advice he vaccinated the family and fortunately no case occurred.

Phthisis.—Eight deaths and 4 from other tubercular diseases. This is an increase, but still below the county average. Notification would be useful as often in small cottages there is no means of isolating and the necessary precautions are not known.

Cancer.—14 deaths. Over 1 per 1,000 population, and representing a vast amount of suffering which Science as yet can do little to alleviate, much less cure.

Water Supply.—Generally good and improving and of every description. There has, however, I think, been some evidence that the Water Works at Walford have affected the Water Supply in the Allen Water Shed and that such Works should be closely watched.

Sewage and Drainage.—There is no special system but improvements are being carried out continually where required and the system of

Excrement disposal being chiefly Earth Closets, the pollution of streams has been stopped to the great improvement of the general health.

Isolation Hospitol.—This is under consideration.

Housing of the Working Classes.—Generally good and sufficient and rents cheap.

Slaughterhouses, Bakehouses, Factories and Workshops.—These are generally in fair condition and are chiefly those found in an Agricultural District. The only industries of any note being a Paper Mill and Brick and Clay Works. There are a few home workers but a decreasing number. Any recommendations made are readily attended to and there is nothing to call for special report.

SUMMARY

OF THE

Annual Reports

OF THE

Medical Officers of Health

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1905.

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In this, my 13th, Summary, your Council will find that on the whole the County fairly maintains its improvement with regard to its public health and sanitary condition.

The death and birth rates are slightly higher, whilst both the Infantile and Zymotic Mortalities are lower than the average of the five preceding years (referred to in the following statistics as the "quinquennial average").

The cases of Infectious Diseases also show by their proportional mortality that they were in most instances of a mild type.

STATISTICS.

Acreage (less inland water).—623,948

Population (Census 1901).—202,063.

Population (as estimated by the Medical Officers of Health to the middle of 1905).—207,817.

Deaths.—2,920 deaths were registered in 1905, the quinquennial average being 2,829.

Death-rate.—This calculated on the Census of 1901 is 14·4, but, if calculated on the population as estimated by the Medical Officers of Health, it would be 14·0 per 1,000. The Urban Districts have a death-rate of 15·2 and the Rural 13·4 per 1,000.

The highest death-rates were recorded at Bridport, 19·0; Wareham, 19·0, and Sherborne, 15·9; all Urban.

The lowest at Lyme Regis (U.), 9·9; Blandford (R.), 10·3, and Branksome (U.), 10·6

The Urban Districts have a death-rate of 15·2 and the Rural of 13·4. The same rate for the whole of England and Wales was 15·2; of the 141 smaller towns, 14·4, and of Rural England and Wales, 14·9.

The average age at death.—This, for the whole County, was 49·9 years; for 1904 it was 46·6. The highest averages were reported from Bridport (R.), 60·9; Shaftesbury (U.), 60·0, and Sturminster (R.), 58·0; the lowest from Portland (U.), 32·0; Branksome (U.), 36·0, and Beaminster (R.), 40·0. In the Urban Districts it was 48·6; in the Rural 51·2.

Births.—The total number registered was 4,751, the quinquennial average being 4,677.

Birth-rate.—This was 23·5, the Urban rate being 25·1 and the Rural 21·8, whilst the quinquennial average was 23·1; the same rate for the whole of England and Wales was 27·2, and in Rural England and Wales 26·3 per 1,000.

The highest rates were recorded at Branksome, 28·9; at Poole, 26·7, and at Portland, 26·6, all Urban; the lowest being Shaftesbury (U.), 15·3; Dorchester W. (R.), 15·3, and Bridport (U.), 16·5.

There were at least 167 of these births registered as illegitimate, or 3·5 per cent. of the whole; the Urban Districts contributed about 5·0 per cent. of these and the Rural about 2·0 per cent.

Infantile Mortality.—This proportionate rate of deaths under one year of age to births registered is for the year 1905, 89·0, and shows a slight decrease from the quinquennial average of 93·6. In the Urban Districts it was 100·6, in the Rural, 75·7. Our rate compares favourably with that of the smaller towns in England and Wales, where it was 132·0; in the Rural Districts it was 113·0.

Much yet remains to be done when we consider the "preventibility" of this high mortality, and the fact that there were as many deaths in the first year of life as in all the years up to 19 put together is a very serious one. The Medical Officer of Health for Portland says that improper feeding and management accounts for a number of these deaths, and especially condemns the feeding bottle with the long tube, which it is impossible to keep clean, and the use of the "filthy dumb-teat."

The highest rates are reported from Dorchester W. (R.), 140·8; Blandford (R.), 130·8, and Portland (U.), 119·7; the lowest from Blandford (U.), 30·7; Bridport (R.), 47·6, and Lyme Regis (U.), 52·3.

Natural Increase of Population.—The births exceeded the deaths by 1,831, the quinquennial average being 1955.

Zymotic Mortality.—A term applied to the mortality from the seven principal zymotic or preventible diseases, and for 1905 this was ·54 per 1,000 of the population, the quinquennial average being ·58. These are very low figures when compared with the same rate for the whole of England and Wales, which was 1·50; for the smaller towns it was 1·50, and for Rural England and Wales, 1·09. The rate for the Urban Districts of the County was ·66, and for the Rural ·35.

The following points are the most noteworthy with reference to these diseases:—

1. Small-pox.—Seven cases were notified as occurring in this County during 1905, viz., 4 from Poole (U), and 1 each from Branksome (U.), Poole (R.) and Shaftesbury (R.). The 4 cases from Poole were due to the visit of a man from Salisbury Plain who, being unvaccinated, had a severe attack; the 3 others who took it from him, having been vaccinated, had very mild attacks; all contacts were vaccinated and no further cases occurred. The Medical Officer of Health for Poole says it has been proved that if a person is vaccinated within two or three days of contact with a case of small-pox the virus is successfully combated. The case at Branksome was that of a domestic servant who contracted the disease at Bournemouth, and that it originated from the return of a young man to his home where she was in service. That in the Shaftesbury district was a man who came to Gillingham on a visit from Whitstable with the disease upon him.

2. Scarlet Fever.—369 cases were notified and these resulted in two deaths, giving a case-mortality of only ·5 per cent. Last year it was 2·7 per cent., in 1903, ·8, and the quinquennial average, 1·5. The chief outbreaks occurred in Sherborne (U.), 126 cases and no death; Sherborne (R.), 49 cases and no death, and Wimborne and Cranborne (R), 31 cases with one death. The cases were therefore of a mild type throughout the County.

3. Diphtheria.—There were 167 cases with 25 deaths from this disease, showing a fatal percentage of 14·5. This in 1904 was 18·0; in 1903, 17·5, whilst the quinquennial average was 17·0 per cent., so that this is an improvement. Poole (U.) had 15 cases and 4 deaths, Beaminster (R.) 22 cases and 2 deaths only, Shaftesbury (R.) 35 cases and 3 deaths, whilst Poole (R.) had 19 cases with only 1 death. There is a remarkable difference in the recovery from this disease in the Urban and Rural Districts, for whereas the Urban had 14 deaths out of 53 cases, the Rural had only 11 deaths out of 114 cases, or, in other words, the case-mortality in the Urban Districts was 26·4 per cent., and in the Rural only 9 6 per cent., or nearly two-thirds less. The serious outbreak at Fontmell and Iwerne was probably due to the insanitary state of the schools.

4. Enteric Fever.—68 cases with 12 deaths, or a case-mortality of 17·6, compares favourably with 1904 and 1903, when the percentage of deaths was 20·0 and 25·7 respectively, the quinquennial average being 20·0 per cent.

Poole (U.) had 39 cases out of the total of 68, with 8 deaths, or 20·5 per cent. ; Portland (U.) had 5 cases only and none of them were fatal; of these, 3 were due to drinking forbidden water which was sewage polluted. With regard to this serious outbreak at Poole, the Medical Officer of Health states he could find no common cause for it; the water was analysed and found to be satisfactory, and it could not be traced to the milk supply. It was evidently endemic and might be due to fluctuation of the ground water. In 17 cases oysters that had probably been kept had been eaten. The enteric cases at Blandford were due to impure water.

5. Puerperal Fever.—Of the 5 cases of Puerperal Fever notified, 4 were fatal, or 80 per cent. Under the present practice of antiseptic midwifery and the more complete working of the new Midwives Act for the better registration of efficient Midwife Nurses it is to be hoped that this dread disease may in time be stamped out.

6. Measles.—This not being a notifiable disease the number of cases cannot be stated, but that they were very numerous is evident from the epidemics mentioned in so many of the Medical Officer's Reports. We know, however, that there were 19 deaths from Measles, the quinquennial average being 23. Fifty cases without a death are reported from Sherborne (U.), whilst the Medical Officers of Health of Blandford, Bridport and Swanage amongst the Urban, and those of Blandford, Bridport, Dorchester (W)., Sherborne, Sturminster and Wimborne and Cranborne amongst the Rural Districts, report epidemics more or less serious.

7. Whooping Cough.—Here again we can only give the fatal cases, which were actually 34 ; the quinquennial average being 32. I think some kind of notification should be adopted, both in the case of Measles and Whooping Cough, for it is only by taking early steps such as isolation, closure of schools, and disinfection, that we can hope to check these highly disastrous epidemics, for they are both zymotic and therefore preventible diseases.

8. Phthisis.—207 deaths are again the sad record of this very fatal disease, the quinquennial average being 186. We seem to have come to a standstill in the successful treatment of Consumption in this County. There is no open-air treatment available for the poorer classes from whom most of the fatal cases come, and no steps are, I fear, now being taken to provide a sanatorium within reasonable distance. The Medical Officers of Wimborne and Beaminster recommend the notification of Phthisis in order to at once remedy any over-crowding or other sanitary defects.

9. Cancer.—There were 214 deaths registered as caused by Cancer or Malignant Disease, the quinquennial average being 180, so that this also shows an increase.

GENERAL REMARKS.

Public Elementary Schools.—These have again been frequently closed throughout the County for the purpose of arresting the various epidemics, details of which are shown in Table III.

Water Supplies—Urban.—Blandford reports many polluted wells in use, nothwithstanding the excellent water supply. Branksome obtains its supply from both the Bournemouth and Poole Water Companies ; from the former, good though hard ; from the latter, many complaints of the rusty-brown colour—this is specially reported upon under Poole. Bridport, that the quarterly analyses of the water are satisfactory. Dorchester, that it obtains its supply from a deep well (200 ft.) in the Chalk far away from any source of contamination. Lyme Regis, that its supply continues excellent and constant. Poole, that recommendations have been made for the reduction of the amount of acidity and iron that its water contains, and that the supply should be obtained from the chalk district further afield. Portland, that its supply has been proved deficient and a new one recommended. Sherborne, excellent and abundant. Shaftesbury, good and constant Swanage, excellent in quality and quantity. Wareham, that the new supply is still unworkable and its present supply very unsatisfactory.

Rural.—Beaminster reports that the new boring has produced a supply, good both in quality and quantity. Blandford, that the supply is derived from wells liable to contamination unless great care is exercised in their position and surroundings. Bridport, that 10 analyses have been made and the sources of 7 have been condemned. Dorchester (W)., that the public supply in Maiden Newton, although expensive, is very much appreciated, being excellent in quality and sufficient in quantity. Sturminster is now looking forward to the supply sanctioned by the Local Government Board. Wareham, that the supply is generally satisfactory, except in East Lulworth, where steps are being taken to remedy it. Weymouth, that it is generally good and abundant.

SANITARY WORK.

The table summarising the returns (now complete) of the Sanitary work done in the County during 1905 is good evidence of the excellency of that work. 11,553 houses have been inspected and 1,247 orders for their sanitary amendment been issued, whilst it is gratifying to find that it was only necessary to take legal proceedings for their enforcement in four cases. In addition, 390 sanitary improvements have been carried out, and 368 nuisances abated. I should like here to draw attention to Dr. Alexander's exhaustive report on the Gas nuisance at Branksome, and to the excellent reports of Inspectors Ramsden of Branksome and R. Smith of Poole,

TABLES I. AND II.—1905.

DISTRICT.	Medical Officer of Health.	Area less Inland Water.	Population, 1901.	Population as estimated to the middle of 1905 by the M.O.H.	Births.		Births—Average for 1895—1905.		Deaths under One year of age.		Ditto—Average for 1895—1905.		Deaths at all ages.		Ditto—Average for 1895—1905.		Zymotic Mortality.	Deaths in Public Institutions.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in District.	Deaths of Residents registered beyond the District.	Deaths at all ages (nett.)		Average Age at Death.
					No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.					No.	Rate.	
URBAN.																							
BLANDFORD ..	DR. DANIELL ..	141	3649	3654	65	17·8			2	30·7			54	14·7			·50	17	11	0	42	11·7	49·2
BRANKSOME ..	,, ALEXANDER ..	2592	8095	9500	275	28·9	257	33·	30	109·1	28·6	115·5	101	10·6	108·3	14·1	·10						36·0
BRIDPORT ..	,, MANBY ..	668	5962	5945	100	16·5	117	15·5	11	110	13·3	125·7	113	19·0	105·5	16·1	1·00	17	12	0	101	16·9	55·0
DORCHESTER ..	,, DAY ..	1640	9458	10366	228	21·7	222	23·3	19	81·0	24	109·0	159	13·4	134	14·0	·10	38	24	4	121	11·5	42·0
LYME REGIS ..	,, SPURR ..	1237	2095	2113	38	17·9	43·5	19·4	2	52·6	3·5	80·3	21	9·9	34·7	15·2	·00	1	1		20	9·5	57·2
POOLE ..	,, CARRINGTON ..	5260	19463	21800	582	26·7	531	28·2	66	113·0	67·	126·0	343	15·7	298	15·1	·90	41					41·0
PORTLAND ..	,, HOWARD ..	2894	15199	13500	359	26·6	271	22·9	43	119·7	33·8	125·3	166	12·3	135·7	11·7	·74	17	13	9	162	12·0	32·0
SHAFTESBURY ..	,, WALKER ..	157	2027	2027	34	15·3	44·7	20·6	3	88·2	4·2	89·5	26	11·7	32·7	15·3	·00	4	4	0	26	11·7	66·0*
SHERBORNE ..	,, NUTT ..	922	5760	6019	116	19·2	127·1	22·7	9	77·5	11·8	93·0	96	15·9	87·9	15.5	·16	24	10	0	86	14·3	50·5
SWANAGE ..	,, MCCAUSLAND ..	2659	3408	3900	73	18·9	79	19·0	6	82·1	6	78·0	44	11·2	44	12·1	·02						52·0
WAREHAM ..	,, COURTENAY ..	247	2003	2000	42	20·0			4	95·2			38	19·0			·50	13	10	0	28	14·0	58·3
WEYMOUTH ..	,, BARCLAY ..	1298	19843	20788	548	26·3	487	24·7	55	100·3	55·2	112·8	335	16·1	285	14·4	·67	51	24	5	316	15·2	47·5
WIMBORNE ..	,, PARKINSON ..	507	3696	3700	73	19·7	72	18·6	5	68·4	5·7	79·5	53	14·3	62·4	16·2	·00	15	10		43	11·6	51·6
RURAL.																							
BEAMINSTER ..	DR. KITSON ..	58645	9184	9180	201	21·8	229	23·2	20	99·5	19	87·1	121	13	147	15·4	·20	7					40·0
BLANDFORD ..	,, DANIELL ..	61658	8808	8818	171	19·4			9	130·8			91	10·3			·30	0	1	11	101	11·3	48·7
BRIDPORT ..	,, HAY ..	32134	6746	6900	125	18·1			5	47·6			84	12·1			·14	0	0	8	92	12·3	60·9
CERNE ..	,, DALTON ..	46724	5061	4618	113	24·4	122	22·1	7	61·9	9	73·7	57	12·3	77	13·9	·20						56·0
DORCHESTER (EAST) ..	,, DAY ..	30307	3982	4021	95	23·7	108	21	10	105	10	99	54	13·5	65	12·6	·00	0	0	8	62	15·5	52·0
,, (WEST) ..	,, RENDALL ..	38648	5497	6130	94	15·3	111	18	14	140·8	9	82	140	22·8	114	18·0	·00	75	75	0	65	10·6	44·0
POOLE ..	,, ROBINSON ..	17259	4779	5047	128	25·0	127	28·3	8	62·5	12	94	56	11·0	59	13·1	·20						45·7
SHAFTESBURY ..	,, WALKER ..	42862	10928	10928	219	20·0	242·7	21·6	17	77·6	18·7	76·6	144	13·1	150·3	13·4	·45	9	0	0	144	13·1	54·0
SHERBORNE ..	,, WILLIAMS ..	37391	5725	6019	134	22·2			8	64·1			79	11·1			·16				79	11·1	52·8
STURMINSTER ..	,, LEACH ..	39151	8804	8660	181	20·9	202	22·5	17	93·9	19·0	94·0	137	15·8	137·8	15·3	·34	0	0	0	137	15·8	58·0
WAREHAM ..	,, COURTENAY ..	89225	10590	10500	250	23·8			14	56·0			143	12·6			·28	0	0	10	143	13·6	52·6
WEYMOUTH ..	,, HAWKINS ..	28969	7884	7884	184	23·3	205	25·4	13	70·6	16	78	102	13·0	111	13·3	·00	2	2	7	108	13·6	52·0
WIMBORNE & CRANBORNE ..	,, PARKINSON ..	80753	13414	13350	323	24·1	353	24·0	24	74·3	30	89	163	12·2	179	12·0	·70	0	10	10	173	12·9	49·3
	TOTALS	623948	202063	207817	4751	23·5			423	89·0			2920	14·4			·54						

* Should be 60·0· as 3 deaths under 1 year are included.

TABLE III.—Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1905.

DISTRICT.	Small Pox.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Erysipelas.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Continued Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	REMARKS.
URBAN.									
BLANDFORD ..	..	1	..	.	1	4	..	..	Measles very prevalent. Two of the Enteric cases due to impure water.
BRANKSOME ..	1	4	..	4	4	..	..	..	Epidemic of Whooping Cough. Small Pox case contracted in Bournemouth.
BRIDPORT ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	In June and July a serious outbreak of Measles; Infant Schools closed.
DORCHESTER ..	..	..	..	3	16	..	..	..	Fourteen of the 16 cases of Scarlet Fever were removed to Isolation Hospital and were of a mild type.
LYME REGIS ..	..	2	..	2	2	..	..	..	
POOLE ..	4	15	1	24	20	39	..	..	Small Pox imported by man from Salisbury Plain. No common cause could be found for the 39 cases of Typhoid.
PORTLAND ..	..	9	..	14	6	5	..	1	Diphtheria and Sore Throats prevalent in the Tophill district. Epidemic of Measles; schools closed.
SHAFTESBURY ..	..	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	
SHERBORNE ..	..	1	..	2	126	..	..	..	Fifty cases of Measles. There was no death amongst the 126 cases of Scarlet Fever.
SWANAGE ..	..	1	..	2	2	1	..	..	Outbreak of Measles; schools closed.
WAREHAM ..	..	1	..	2	3	1	..	..	The case of Enteric Fever was due to contaminated water.
WEYMOUTH ..	..	14	1	6	3	5	1	..	The first cases of Diphtheria due to milk supply from insanitary dairy farm.
WIMBORNE ..	..	2	..	..	5	1	..	..	
RURAL.									
BEAMINSTER ..	..	22	1	4	26	3	..	1	Whooping Cough and Chicken Pox very prevalent.
BLANDFORD ..	..	12	..	1	7	1	..	..	Ten of the 12 cases of Diphtheria were from insanitary dwellings. Measles and Whooping Cough very prevalent.
BRIDPORT ..	..	3	1	1	24	1	..	..	Scarlet Fever cases were from Bradpole and Charmouth. Measles very prevalent.
CERNE ..	..	2	..	6	3	2	..	..	Cattistock and Fulham schools closed through influenza.
DORCHESTER (EAST) ..	..	..	..	3	4	..	..	1	
,, (WEST) ..	..	3	..	2	1	1	..	..	
POOLE ..	1	19	..	2	6	..	..	..	Canford Schools closed through epidemic of Diphtheria.
SHAFTESBURY ..	1	35	..	5	6	..	..	..	Serious outbreak of Diphtheria at Fontmell and Iwerne.
SHERBORNE ..	..	..	..	6	49	1	..	..	Epidemic of Scarlet Fever and Measles. Schools closed in nine parishes in consequence.
STURMINSTER ..	..	5	..	3	2	..	..	..	Schools closed at Lydlinch and Shillingstone through Whooping Cough, at Stalbridge, Marnhull and Childe Okeford for Measles.
WAREHAM ..	..	3	..	11	17	1	..	..	
WEYMOUTH ..	..	1	..	1	3	1	..	1	
WIMBORNE & CRANBORNE ..	..	9	..	3	31	1	2	1	Severe Epidemic of Measles and Whooping Cough; schools closed in eight parishes in consequence.
TOTALS	7	167	4	108	369	68	3	5	

Table IV.—Causes of Death during 1905.

DISTRICT.	Smallpox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria and Membranous Croup.	Croup.	Fever.			Epidemic Influenza.	Cholera.	Plague.	Diarrhœa.	Enteritis.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Other Septic Diseases.	Phthisis.	Other Tubercular Diseases.	Cancer, Malignant Disease.	Bronchitis.	Pneumonia.	Pleurisy.	Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs.	Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver.	Venereal Diseases.	Premature Birth.	Disease and Accidents of Parturition.	Heart Diseases.	Accidents.	Suicides.	All other causes.	Totals—Net Deaths.
							Typhus.	Enteric.	Other Continued.																								
URBAN.																																	
BLANDFORD	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	8	4	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	5	3	1	21	54
BRANKSOME	..	..	..	6	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	9	5	5	8	9	1	4	..	..	7	1	11	2	..	31	101
BRIDPORT	..	3	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	8	8	1	..	4	2	..	..	..	13	1	1	64	113
DORCHESTER	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	2	14	5	10	..	..	2	..	..	..	24	10	..	79	159
LYME REGIS	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	3	2	..	10	21
POOLE	..	1	..	5	4	1	..	8	..	3	..	..	1	2	..	..	2	29	7	18	25	16	2	17	2	6	18	3	35	11	5	122	343
PORTLAND	..	2	1	4	3	1	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	1	1	..	4	10	2	8	8	25	..	..	5	..	13	1	16	9	3	45	166
SHAFTESBURY	..	..	..	..	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	...	..	5	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	11	23
SHERBORNE	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	10	14	11	..	..	..	..	..	..	11	..	..	38	96
SWANAGE	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	8	1	1	2	5	..	..	..	..	2	..	5	2	1	15	44
WAREHAM	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	1	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	..	10	38
WEYMOUTH	..	2	..	3	3	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	5	13	..	..	..	32	8	20	22	21	2	..	6	..	8	..	37	6	2	143	335
WIMBORNE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	2	4	5	..	..	1	..	3	..	4	2	..	28	53
RURAL.																																	
BEAMINSTER	..	..	..	5	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	..	12	2	13	9	1	1	..	..	..	3	..	16	1	1	52	121
BLANDFORD	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	4	8	8	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	16	1	1	38	91
BRIDPORT	..	1	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	6	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15	..	3	41	84
CERNE	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	..	2	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	..	40	57
DORCHESTER (EAST)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	..	1	..	6	6	2	1	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	...	27	54
,, (WEST)	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5	3	3	7	2	..	..	1	..	6	..	13	1	1	95	140
POOLE	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	9	1	6	1	5	..	..	..	..	1	..	10	1	..	15	56
SHAFTESBURY	..	1	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	8	..	..	..	10	3	7	5	8	..	..	1	..	3	..	32	3	..	57	144
SHERBORNE	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	7	9	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	18	1	..	37	79
STURMINSTER	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	7	3	11	7	9	..	..	2	1	1	..	21	3	..	66	137
WAREHAM	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	1	12	2	14	8	11	..	4	..	..	5	..	27	5	..	46	143
WEYMOUTH	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	14	6	13	..	..	..	..	2	2	14	2	1	41	102
WIMBORNE & CRANBORNE	..	4	1	2	1	..	..	1	..	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8	4	14	17	10	..	..	2	..	12	..	19	1	3	59	163
TOTALS	..	19	2	34	25	4	..	12	..	28	..	..	10	37	4	2	8	207	53	214	207	175	7	31	23	7	94	7	388	69	23	1151	

Table of the Sanitary Work of 1905.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK PERFORMED.	Urban Sanitary Districts.													Rural Sanitary Districts.													TOTAL.
	Blandford.	Branksome	Bridport.	Dorchester.	Lyme Regis.	Poole.	Portland.	Shaftesbury.	Sherborne.	Swanage.	Wareham.	Weymouth.	Wimborne.	Beaminster.	Blandford.	Bridport.	Cerne	Dorchester E.	Dorchester W	Poole	Shaftesbury.	Sherborne	Sturminster.	Wareham.	Weymouth.	Wimborne & Cranborne.	
No. of Complaints received during the year	63	38	..	24	40	35	127	..	14	5	2	54	23	5	..	6	14	18	27	7	28	1	55	..	37	15	638
No. of Inspections of Houses, Premises, &c.	286	1884	43	430	143	1388	1513	..	1494	370	23	1178	325	118	173	473	188	99	105	31	39	172	48	150	372	437	11552
Results of Inspections :																											
Orders issued for Sanitary Amendment of Houses, Premises, &c.	51	214	..	98	10	212	163	..	127	..	3	174	19	..	4	..	34	17	39	..	..	2	4	45	6	25	1247
Houses, Premises, &c., Cleaned, Repaired, Whitewashed, &c. ..	3	24	..	40	20	74	54	16	45	6	9	36	87	22	15	35	19	..	2	..	..	8	4	18	20	39	596
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Illness	7	16	..	16	3	12	28	2	41	4	2	49	4	21	30	9	4	2	5	16	4	30	4	15	7	45	376
House Drains																											
New provided	11	111	..	16	..	109	55	..	6	2	..	10	22	30	2	2	3	..	..	5	..	1	1	4	105	5	500
Repaired, Cleaned, Trapped, &c.	39	398	9	48	10	43	71	12	102	24	1	127	43	..	7	12	14	4	6	..	22	6	4	5	15	17	1039
Privies and W.C.'s																											
New provided	9	139	6	5	..	33	14	..	14	..	1	21	25	..	6	6	4	..	..	..	..	1	..	4	109	9	406
Repaired, &c.	16	63	..	38	5	28	12	..	41	..	2	20	31	20	..	6	25	3	12	.	..	2	5	6	5	6	346
Supplied with water	6	10	..	6	5	9	33	..	11	..	..	5	3	..	..	2	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114	..	204
Water supplies provided	10	4	..	6	..	..	72	..	17	..	..	..	20	16	3	4	12	..	..	..	..	3	1	6	3	..	167
Sewers, new provided	10	..	..	2	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	20
Miscellaneous :																											
Removal of accumulations of Manure, Animal and other Refuse	6	21	1	14	1	24	9	..	4	9	4	6	61	13	11	12	11	6	17	7	..	..	7	13	18	7	282
Animals removed, being improperly kept	13	4	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	1	..	7	5	..	4	3	2	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	11	59
Cases of Overcrowding	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	3	1	1	..	1	..	..	5	3	..	2	1	5	27
No. of Lodging Houses Registered	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Legal Proceedings (Summonses)	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	4